MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MARCH 1982

Israel

No-Confidence Vote -- Following a tie vote in the Knesset over the Alignment's no-confidence motion, the Cabinet turned down Prime Minister Menahem Begin's proposal to resign, Jerusalem radio reported. If the Cabinet finds difficulty functioning because of the equal balance in the Knesset, it will advance the Knesset elections to November 1982, the radio said. On the other hand, if it can continue to function, it will advance the elections to May 1983.

Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television that the 10 Cabinet ministers and 2 Agudat Yisra'el representatives who outvoted Begin and 5 other ministers on the resignation issue had argued that the 58-58 tie in the Knesset was a coincidence that is unlikely to be repeated. According to the radio, Begin was not necessarily unhappy at the Cabinet decision, despite earlier reports that he was determined to resign in the event of a tie on the no-confidence motion. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told the radio that the Alignment now intends to take action to replace the government, which has proved it lacks both policy and principles.

Earlier, both Jerusalem and IDF radios had provided extensive coverage of the Knesset debate that preceded the vote. In excerpts of his speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres attacked a number of government policies, including the "siege" of Golan Druze villages, the creation of a Palestinian "ghetto" inside Israel's territories and the deterioration of relations with the United States. However, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon sharply attacked Peres in his speech, excerpts of which were broadcast by the radio, accusing the Labor leader of allowing the PLO to take over key positions in Judaea and Samaria when he was defense minister.

West Bank, Gaza Situation -- An Arab youth in Hebron died from gunshot wounds early on 24 March, IDF radio reported. The radio also said further disturbances had broken out in Judaea and Samaria. Defense Minister Sharon had previously told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that the rioting in Judaea and Samaria was calming down, IDF radio reported. Jerusalem radio reported minor disturbances in east Jerusalem on 23 March and indicated that many shops in the eastern sector remained closed. A curfew was imposed in Rafah on 24 March after disturbances there had increased, IDF radio reported. Disturbances had broken out in Rafah and Gaza the previous day, according to ITIM. Military courts in Judaea and Samaria handed out short prison terms and fines to 17 youths convicted of participating in recent disturbances, ITIM noted.

Relations With Egypt -- Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz delivered a message to Menahem Begin from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with the autonomy negotiations, Jerusalem and the border demarcation, IDF radio reported. Mubarak's message was friendly, the radio said, but there has been no real progress toward resolving the problems, especially with regard to the border demarcation. Begin rejected Al-Baz's suggestion on Mubarak's behalf that international arbitration resolve the dispute over the Tabah area. However, in remarks broadcast by the radio, Al-Baz said he was satisfied with the talks, adding that all outstanding issues will be resolved in the immediate future.

Egypt

Mubarak Remarks -- There is an attempt to sour Egypt's relations with the United States, but it will not succeed because these relations are extremely strong, President Mubarak said at a National Democratic Party parliamentary group meeting reported by MENA.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Commentary -- In connection with the no-confidence motion in the Knesset, an AL-JUMHURIYAH commentary reported by MENA demanded that Israeli opposition parties prove to the Palestinian people that they will adopt a new policy on the West Bank and the autonomy question, which is "stumbling because of Begin's stubbornness."

Kuwait

Statement on Palestinian Struggle -- The National Assembly issued a statement, broadcast by Kuwait radio, appealing to Arab governments to open their borders to Palestinian fedayeen action and to supply funds and weapons to strengthen the Palestinian cause. It also called on Arab governments to resort to armed struggle against Israel and to reject all initiatives and solutions based on capitulation.

Bisharah Resignation Call -- The National Assembly has called for 'Abdallah Bisharah's resignation from the post of Gulf Cooperation Council secretary general following his description of Kuwait's democratic experiment as "a luxury," KUNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- On 24 March, Iranian forces launched the second phase of their current operation west of Shush and Dezful, and advancing troops captured new strategic positions, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. According to earlier communiques broadcast by the radio, 650 sq km of Iranian territory were recaptured, 5,000 Iraqis were killed and 7,000 wounded, 4,853 prisoners were transferred behind the front and 6 Iraqi planes were downed on 22 and 23 March by antiaircraft units and Iranian aircraft. Egyptian and Jordanian soldiers are among the prisoners, Tehran radio said. It also reported the destruction of 80 Iraqi tanks and the downing of 1 Sukhoi plane by the Iranian Air Force and another by the ground forces.

Iraqi forces have launched a large-scale counterattack, encircling some Iranian units and causing others to retreat, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced. Iraqi forces destroyed 12 Iranian brigades, killed over 10,000 soldiers, captured 50 tanks and knocked out 44 others. Iraqi fighters flew 119 combat missions and Iraqi helicopters 17, all returning safely except for 1 plane that crashed over enemy territory, the communique concluded. According to a captured Iranian lieutenant colonel cited by INA, Syrian and Libyan military units and military experts are now in Iran.

Musavi Interview -- This victory strengthens Iran's position as the most powerful country in the region, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said in an interview reported by Tehran radio. He added that Iran will use its power for peace, that the United States must remove itself from the Persian Gulf, and that the small Gulf countries will find life under the protection of Islamic peace more fruitful than any dependence on the superpowers. Musavi also said that the 77th Division, which an Iraqi commander cited by Monte Carlo Radio claimed had been completely destroyed, will be among the forces that will terminate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime.

Iran

Police and Islamic Guards killed seven Mojahedin-e Khalq leaders, including three of the organization's Majlis candidates, according to a guards corps announcement broadcast by Tehran radio.

Afghanistan

The recently concluded PDPA congress ended abruptly due to fears of armed clashes between the rival Khalq and Parcham factions, according to Kabul sources cited by AFP. Interior Minister Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy interrupted President Babrak Karmal's speech, objecting to his ministry being called the "ministry of bandits," and Politburo member Saleh Mohammad Ziray charged factionalism in the choice of the 836 delegates, the Kabul sources claimed.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO'S 'ARAFAT ATTENDS FATAH MEETING 21 MAR

JN221626 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1510 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee held a meeting yesterday evening which was attended by Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was devoted to discussing the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The participants saluted the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their confrontation of the Israeli occupation forces.

'ARAFAT URGES UN, OAU TO STOP 'ZIONIST' ACTS

NC240826 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday sent messages to the UN secretary general, the OAU chairman and the OAU secretary general calling on them to intervene to stop the continuous Zionist aggression against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territory. In his messages, Brother Abu 'Ammar says: Our people in the occupied areas are exercising their legitimate right to resist the racist occupation and declare their full rejection of the various plans which the occupation authorities are trying to impose by force and coercion, including the Civilian Administration and autonomy.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO UN ON WEST BANK EVENTS

NC240922 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0625 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar sent by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat -- date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Perez de Cuellar: Greetings. The situation in the occupied Palestinian lands is escalating sharply. The Zionist racist occupation authorities are continuing their savage actions against citizens and all the professional, social, educational and labor union institutions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Zionist barbarism reached its climax when the Israeli Government adopted a decision to reinforce the army's presence in the occupied areas and ordered it to use utmost severity against the Palestinian inhabitants. A number of citizens have been killed by Israeli army bullets and a large number of others wounded. This is in addition to the expropriation of land. The establishment of settlements, the closure of educational institutions, the banning of unions and the closure of colleges and schools as well as other suppressive and terrorist measures.

Our people in the occupied areas are exercising their legitimate right in resisting the racist occupation of their land. They have declared their absolute rejection of all the schemes which the occupation authorities have been trying to impose by force and coercion, including the Civilian Administration and autonomy scheme. Through their legitimate and valiant struggle our people have also declared their adherence to their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil. At the same time, our people have affirmed in an absolute manner their support and commitment to the PLO as their sole legitimate representative and leader of their national struggle.

In appealing to you and to the states of the world and their peace and justice-loving peoples, which are keen not to violate the UN charter and the Human Rights Convention, the PLO draws attention to the fact that the Israeli occupation authorities' continued occupation of our land and their successive hostile actions against our people, against our national human rights and against our institutions, constitute a flagrant defiance of international norms and traditions under the UN charter. They also constitute practical and illegal measures for the perpetuation of the occupation as a permanent fait accompli by the force of arms and coercion.

It is no secret to anyone that the racist Zionist authorities' savage aggression against our people and national rights are receiving the full backing and support of the United States on all military, economic, political and diplomatic levels. This support is also manifested in the positions the United States has taken in the United Nations. These positions have encouraged the continued aggression by justifying it with various flimsy arguments. These positions have also encouraged the Zionist authorities to continue and escalate their terrorism and suppressive measures against our people and against our children and women.

On my behalf and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee and on behalf of our Palestinian Arab people I appeal to you, your excellency the secretary general, for the United Nations with all its bodies and institutions to assume its responsibilities, consistent with the UN resolutions, conventions and norms, in restraining this excessive Zionist aggression against our people and our national rights, hoping that our people's legitimate and just struggle will receive all the backing and support from you and from the United Nations. With my best regards, [Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief.

PLO'S QADDUMI INTERVIEWED ON WEST BANK SITUATION

JN232124 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Interview granted on 23 March by Faruq Qaddumi, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, to Voice of Palestine, place not given -- portions recorded]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Question] The general strike has entered its fifth day and the popular upheaval in the occupied homeland is now in its 19th day. What does Brother Abu al-Lutf have to say to our people in the occupied homeland?

[Answer] There are no words that can do justice to describing the geniune character of our people, their firm will and their strong determination to defeat occupation and champion their national rights. Our people in the occupied homeland, who rose in a comprehensive upheaval, have demonstrated that they will never give in to the Zionist enemy, to its enticements or to its attempts to impose civilian administration on them. Our people are demonstrating that the Palestinian revolution is a raging revolution, a human revolution, a revolution against injustice and tyranny, a revolution against occupation and a revolution for sovereignty, independence and a free future without foreign intervention. Our glorious people, whose sons have risen in a popular upheaval, will show to the world at large that the Palestinian revolution will be victorious no matter how long this takes. It goes without saying that there are no appropriate words that can do justice to our people's geniune character, which is currently being highlighted by their determination to pursue the revolution through confrontation of tyranny, occupation and determination to march onward. [end recording]

On the political dimensions of this barbaric Zionist onslaught against our people, on our people's upheaval in the occupied homeland and on how the PLO is dealing with this barbaric Zionist onslaught against our people's upheaval on the political and diplomatic level, Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, said: [begin recording] The increasing onslaught which the Zionist enemy is carrying out inside and outside the occupied territories, and which began from the very first moments of occupation, is clear evidence that the Zionist entity's objective is to expand, establish settlements, annex lands, oppress people and establish a greater Israel. All these objectives are finding support from the United States. A decision was taken to annex Jerusalem. Another one was taken to annex the Golan Heights. Now the Israeli occupation authorities are trying to impose autonomy on our people in the occupied homeland as stipulated in the Camp David accords, but in accordance with the Zionist concept of autonomy. All these measures, however, will never succeed in convincing our people to accept such an autonomy rule. Our people will continue to wage a fierce and arduous struggle against all these measures. Our people will continue to offer sacrifices for the sake of wiping out this conspiracy and liquidating all future conspiracies against their national rights, particularly their right to determine their fate and establish their own independent Palestinian state.

That's why the PLO and the Palestinian revolution seek with all their might to escalate the armed struggle, the only language that the Israeli enemy understands. They are also doing their best to win the support of the countries in the world, to completely isolate this entity from the world, and finally, to have all the forces of liberation and freedom in the world stand on our people's side against these oppressive measures. It goes without saying that we are doing our best to confront these measures by all political and diplomatic means, and primarily by military means. The result of all this will be inevitable victory, no matter how long this takes.

The PLO, in cooperation with Syria and the Arab group, has called for a special UN Security Council session. We also have been in contact with international organizations such as the Human Rights Committee and the Coordination Bureau [not further identified]. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sent letters to the presidents of the Nonaligned Conference and the Islamic Conference Organization. Brother Abu 'Ammar also sent a letter to the Arab League secretary general explaining these oppressive measures and what our people are suffering in the occupied territories. We also sent letters to friendly countries informing them about these oppressive measures and calling on the world to adopt the harshest sanctions against this Zionist entity which is trying to impose its control and measures on our people in the occupied territories. At the same time, we contacted Arab popular bodies and associations which will take the necessary measures to bolster our people by staging a general strike throughout the entire Arab homeland. [end recording]

VOP: SHARON TAUGHT LESSON BY WEST BANK EVENTS

JN222152 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today Gen Ari'el Sharon went to the streets of the West Bank. We really envy his daring and courage for taking this risk. Why did he go out personally? Observers say he did so to give his aborted repressive campaign a new sensational impetus, especially in front of his terrified soldiers. Others say Sharon wanted to show personal interest in the implementation of his arrangements, which have faced widespread criticism inside and outside the Zionist entity.

It is not very important to know why Sharon risked going out into the streets. What is really important is to know what he did and the results. AFP, which carried the urgent dispatch on Sharon's action said it was so that he could personally supervise firing bullets at residents of the Al-Jalazun refugee camp, critically wounding a citizen in the head, firing at windows and drinking water tanks and roofs in order to enforce the curfew and ensuring that large numbers of soldiers are present at what he termed trouble spots in the West Bank. He crowned his tour by killing the Palestinian laborer Muhammad Hamid Dib, who has become the third martyr of this uprising, being preceded by two comrades in Sinjil and Al-Birah.

Bravo, Ari'el Sharon; bravo, twinkling star that showed its brilliance in the 1973 war and is now fading in the uprising under a shower of Palestinian stones. Speaking of Sharon's past brilliance, we must remember that he personally directed the July war from behind the war minister's desk before he was officially appointed. His war was a failure, as all the world knows.

We return to our question: What did Sharon achieve in his tour of the battlefield today? Sharon learned a new lesson which is more eloquent than the reports from his officers and more truthful than the claims of those around him who believe the iron fist can do something to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people know how to challenge and how to be the stronger party in any challenge.

Sharon has learned on the battlefield that the decision of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is solely the Palestinian people's. When the call for a strike is made, commitment to this call becomes total, even if the whole Zionist army goes out into the streets. The army resorted to breaking the locks of shops and firing indiscriminately.

The lesson which our masses have taught Sharon was not the first and will not be the last. It is a lesson which the falling star must deliver to the murderers in Tel Aviv, headed by Menahem Begin, who is nailed to his wheelchair, very sick and suffering from the Palestinian complex which will finish him off.

Sharon's lesson, which he learned today in the battlefield of confrontation, should be conveyed, and it may have already been conveyed, to his overlords in the White House, overlords who wagered on Sharon's iron fist to control our people. But they found out that they were playing a losing game by wagering on weary horses which gave way under the shower of Palestinian stones as they did under the Palestinian rockets in July.

When the big murderers and their small instruments are taught such a lesson by our people, they should realize that future lessons will be harder, more ferocious and more costly. They should also realize that the millions of Palestinians whom they treated as besieged numbers in a big occupation prison and upon whom they experimented with repression and plots will fill their Palestinian land with revolutionary action and the corners of the world with their political and national entity. These millions will continue to take the initiative and make decisions until victory is achieved.

VOP ON U.S. REACTION TO WEST BANK INCIDENTS

NC231427 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1233 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Washington has expressed its regret over the violent actions taking place in the occupied territories. This is what the Reagan administration has come out with after a long silence on the massacre the occupation authorities are now committing against the Palestinian masses and the Syrian Arab masses in the occupied Golan Heights.

The truth is that Washington has not voiced anything new. It would have been a new thing had it announced something other than the expression of trivial and distasteful regret.

The Reagan administration cannot defend a people struggling for their freedom and rights. Therefore, its support for the occupation authorities is natural. Actually, the unnatural thing is the ignorance and impudence the White House administration is demonstrating. It declares 21 March a day for defending the so-called rights of the Afghan people, while its tools and lackeys in the Zionist entity -- El Salvador and Guatemala -- are committing hideous crimes that smear the face of humanity.

Washington finds only incomprehensible words of regret when it comes to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and any other Arab people. However, we see it moving heaven and earth under the pretext that not enough bread and cheese are available on Poland's markets.

These are the customary practices and morals of the citadel, the so-called citadel of the free world. They are customary practices and morals that are applicable only to the jungle of this world -- the imperialist jungle from which Begin and Sharon graduated in occupied Palestine, Duarte of El Salvador, Somoza of Nicaragua and the other tyrants who fell on the road of the peoples' march to uproot imperialist inequity and its tools.

PLO'S QADDUMI COMMENTS ON WEST BANK SITUATION

NC231530 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] In Beirut, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has stated in an interview with the Voice of Palestine radio that the uprising in the occupied homeland is proof of the Palestinian rejection of [Israeli Defense Minister] Sharon's measures. The question is not one of making a decision, rather it is the popular will which dictates what it wishes. This Zionist entity which is led by such a military clique will meet with the same fate as that of fascism during World War II.

In his interview with our radio, Brother Abu al-Lutf added that these threats and measures will not frighten us, nor will they intimidate our people. This enemy, who only understands the language of weapons and force, shall be confronted with our force and arms to defend ourselves and our rights no matter how long this takes.

PLO OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON EVENTS IN ISRAEL

JN192043 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Radio correspondent Antoine Abu Shamrah's interview with PLO official Khalil al-Wazir, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, carried in the "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Question] Abu Jihad, it may be understood from the press conference you held today with Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh that Israel's disbanding of the Al-Birah Municipal Council is a prelude to the annexation of the West Bank. What will you do if the West Bank is annexed?

[Answer] First of all, the disbanding of the Al-Birah Municipal Council is a step in the continued chain of measures by the Israeli enemy. The enemy has long been harassing the citizens. The enemy's latest measure intends to impose the Civil Administration under Dr Menahem Milson. This is part of a Begin-Sharon plan to further consolidate civil rule as an alternative to military rule. This kind of rule is known to the whole world. It is like changing a military uniform for a civilian one. Our Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and everywhere else have voiced their complete rejection of this maneuver and trick.

Hence, the Palestinian people's stand inside the occupied territories is one of a national unity that has expressed this rejection. For exactly 47 days, since the appointment of Milson, our people have been staging a continued uprising in all the West Bank cities. As a result, the enemy closed Bir Zayt University, other universities and schools. The enemy has recently started new measures to increase the burdens of the Palestinian citizens, to put the municipal councils in a corner and to prevent them from carrying out their duties.

Sharon and the other military organs claim that Al-Birah Municipal Council was hampering the citizens' interests. This is a funny claim. Who in fact was hampering the citizens' interests?

Zionist circles say the current measures in the West Bank are part of the process to annex the West Bank. Actually, whether the West Bank is annexed or not, our people will continue to stand as one in the face of occupation. Today, our people are expressing determination to face the challenge in Al-Birah. What happened in the Golan? The enemy annexed the Golan but was faced by the valiant masses there who are standing alongside our people in the face of occupation. Occupation is occupation whether it is civilian or military.

[Question] As I understood from your press conference, you are holding Arab and international contacts. Can you tell us about your Arab and international support?

[Answer] Since yesterday we have made contacts with different circles. Our representatives and the directors of offices were asked to hold contacts. Brother Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian Command also made contacts on the various UN, international and other levels in order to outline developments inside the occupied territories and to draw attention to the steps that may be taken to face the events. There must be a practical Arab stand to support the masses and to contain any new Israeli measures. We are holding various international, official, popular and organizational contacts. Above all, what counts now is the stand of our people in the occupied territories. This stand constitutes the basic and most practical reply to the occupation's terrorism.

[Question] In your press conference today, you said the cease-fire applies only to southern Lebanon and that fedayeen operations may continue on other fronts. Is there, for example, any coordination with the other fronts, the Jordanian and Syrian fronts?

[Answer] The issue is not one of coordination or lack of coordination. We in the Palestinian revolution try to continue our struggle. It is our right to struggle in order to face this occupation by all means. Our people inside the occupied territories also have the right to face this occupation, either through their political struggle or military operations. The Palestinian revolution, either inside the occupied territories, through its people and militants or through the (?operations) across the Arab borders, is facing this occupation although we are having problems in this respect. Yet we have the will to continue our revolutionary operations.

As for the cease-fire, it is not true that it applies to other fronts, as a U.S. administration spokesman said today. As we said in the press conference, we had not made an agreement. Our talk with the envoys of the UN secretary general and president of the UN Security Council was that the issue is related to the question of the borders and our commitment toward the Lebanese borders. Therefore, what was mentioned is not true. The Palestinian revolution continues and will continue.

[Question] There was a strong Jordanian reaction to the Israeli measures in the West Bank. Naturally, there was strong Palestinian reaction as well. The question is whether there is any coordination with Jordan on the confrontation of any Israeli measures.

[Answer] Of course, this is a pan-Arab issue. A strong reaction is requested not only from us and from Jordan but from all the Arabs. This is a duty and a necessary measure to maintain the confrontation. We must not wait for the enemy to further undermine our lives and threaten our presence inside the occupied territories.

[Abu Samrah] Thank you, Abu Jihad.

ARAB SUBCOMMITTEE URGES JOINT FORCES FOR LEBANON

LD221348 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Mar 82

[By Nabil al-Baradi'i]

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (KUNA) -- A Palestinian paper submitted today to the meetings of the Arab subcommittee charged with drafting an Arab strategy to confront Israel in southern Lebanon calls on Arab states "to deploy immediately joint Arab forces to assume the duty of defending southern Lebanon."

The Palestinian paper, whose text has been obtained by KUNA, demands "an Arab strategy to be drafted in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit and the recommendations of the Arab chiefs of staff in order that this Arab strategy goes beyond the task of backing steadfastness to the task of liberating the occupied Arab territories."

It adds "that the PLO cannot countenance an Arab strategy at the expense of the Palestinian revolution, the creation of a state of stagnation in the progress of this revolution; moreover, it is imperative to link any strategy to defend southern Lebanon with a comprehensive Arab strategy."

The Palestinian paper says of the UN forces in southern Lebanon "that they are not the decisive factor in implementing the UN Security Council's resolution No 425, for these forces are carrying out their activities not because of their number and equipment but because of UN prestige, which, time has proved, the Zionist enemy does not take into account."

After stressing the need to back the Palestinian revolution, the paper affirms "the PLO's commitment not to use Lebanese territory for its military activities against the Zionist enemy, and it also affirms its commitment to the cease-fire reached in southern Lebanon under the auspices of the UN Security Council and the United Nations."

The Palestinian paper, which has been handed to the Arab League Secretariat General, points out the difficult conditions which the Lebanese Army is facing and the difficulty in agreeing to its task and composition by the Lebanese. It stresses that "the PLO can only begin to proceed from the joint Arab plan approved by the Arab summit conference, and it clearly declares that it is inadmissable to endeavor to let non-Arab sides take part in this pan-Arab strategic action, with due respect to the resolutions issued by the United Nations and about which the organization has reservations."

The paper calls for the need "for the UN forces to reach Lebanon's international border and for the council of Arab delegates at the United Nations to be given the task of seeking the implementation of this in accordance with the recommendations of the Arab foreign ministers in Fes."

The paper affirms "the PLO's commitment to the agreements and the appendices signed with the Lebanese authorities."

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC MEMBERS CONSIDERING JOINT MILITARY FORCE

GF211712 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has stated that the GCC countries are currently studying the possibility of forming a joint military force to avoid the need for foreign forces.

Mr Bisharah has informed Kuwaiti television that the six GCC countries have agreed on four main points that will probably be the basis for this joint Gulf force. He pointed out that this force will not be directed against anybody but will be employed in the service of each country member to enable it to defend itself against any foreign threat.

In Riyadh, the Saudi Interior Ministry under secretary has emphasized that the Gulf security agreements are not directed against anybody but against everyone attempting to undermine the region's security.

GCC SECRETARY ON GCC-OPEC COMMON INTERESTS

GF201103 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Mar (QNA) -- Dr 'Abdallah al-Quways, GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, has affirmed that the GCC and OPEC have common interests because the GCC countries' oil constitutes 60 percent of OPEC oil. Al-Quways has stated that it is in the GCC countries' interest for OPEC to remain strong as an organization to protect oil prices.

In a statement to the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD to be published today, the GCC assistant secretary general attributed the oil glut in the international market to several factors. Among these factors were the economic recession, which decreased chances for progress and increased interest rates, the low demand for oil due to successive rises in oil prices and the consequent replacement of oil with substitutes.

Al-Quways mentioned that the future GCC economic strategy is aimed at industrializing oil and oil derivatives such as gas for the best exploitation of available resources and for establishing more industries in order to cover the needs of the Gulf market besides working to achieve monetary integration. He noted that a special committee will meet next month to study the means of financial and investment cooperation preparatory to the discussion of these matters at the GCC finance ministers' meeting in June 1982. Al-Quways described the GCC joint economic agreement as a general framework for economic cooperation that will establish future principles and steps that could achieve economic integration not only on the GCC level but on the Arab level as well.

KUWAIT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SUGGESTS GCC SECRETARY RESIGN

LD231452 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti National Assembly, in a proposal approved by 35 Assembly members, has asked the government to suggest to 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, in his capacity as a Kuwaiti citizen, "that he resign from his post."

At its session today, the National Assembly denounced the statement Bisharah made on Kuwaiti television last Saturday in which he spoke about the democratic experiment in Kuwait. During the session, the speaker of the Assembly put forward a proposal, submitted by five deputies, regarding Bisharah's statement. The minister of state for cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, then addressed the session. He said that the statement made by Bisharah "does not in any way represent the viewpoint of the Kuwaiti Government. The democratic experiment is based on a sound foundation of popular participation, and we consider his statement to be a personal view not representing that of the GCC."

A number of deputies then spoke, criticizing Bisharah for considering the democratic experiment in parliament to be "a luxury."

A proposal was submitted recommending that the government suggest to 'Abdallah Bisharah, in his capacity as a Kuwaiti citizen, that he submit his resignation as GCC general secretary "for being unworthy to assume responsibility and for what he said about the National Assembly." The proposal was approved by 35 members of the Assembly and referred to the government.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-MADINAH URGES MUSLIMS TO OUST AL-QADHDHAFI

GF231537 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 20 Mar 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Al-Qadhdhafi, a Longstanding and Rabid Heretic and Unbeliever"]

[Text] Few people are aware of the strenuous efforts made by the Saudi leadership to reform the heretic called Al-Qadhdhafi, who is known in Libya as Mu'ammar ibn Rahil [son of Rachel] Rahmin (Hadarah), because Jews are usually called by their matronyms.

For several years the Saudi leadership has been trying hard to reform and guide this man whom fate has placed at the helm of power in fraternal Libya. Few people know that the late King Faysal turned one of the Arab summit conferences attended by Al-Qadhdhafi into a session of advice and guidance to this heretic and renegade. This incident was related by Mahmud al-Masmudi [former Libyan diplomat and currently a member of the opposition to Al-Qadhdhafi outside Libya] in his memoirs, which we published in this newspaper several months ago.

Few people also seem to know that the servant of the two holy mosques, King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, visited Libya and bore the hardship of travel despite his pains at the time to discharge the Islamic trust with which God honored him. The good king himself went to the colonel of Libya to hear from him personally his views on Islam, the prophet of Islam, the Koran and the Sunna after the Muslim ulema who had earlier gone to see him -- and they were a select group of ulema sent by the Supreme Council of Mosques -- had despaired. They tried to persuade him to repent and renew his allegiance to Islam, but he refused and insisted on going to Mecca to face the Muslim ulema. They said to him: Mecca will remain out of bounds to you until you renew your allegiance to Islam and repent.

In view of the repeated requests and numerous letters Al-Qadhdhafi used to send to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz asking that Saudi Arabia be tolerant of his behavior and allow him to visit the kingdom, and in view of the sin that might result from allowing a heretic and an apostate to desecrate the two holy mosques, King Khalid decided to visit Libya himself and meet with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to learn at first hand Al-Qadhdhafi's thinking and stands.

We also repeat that few people know of the sharp and heated argument that broke out when King Khalid ibn 'Abd al'Aziz asked Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his views on the Sunna and Muhammad. Al-Qadhdhafi answered: Muhammad was a human being like all other human beings, a struggler and a rebel, like me and you, Your Majesty. King Khalid arose angrily and said: God forbid, he is Muhammad, the messenger of God. God's peace be upon him. He is the best of Adam's progeny and you should not put yourself or me on the same level as the messenger of God.

At this juncture Prince Sultan 'Abd al-'Aziz joined in a lengthy and heated discussion with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi which culminated in Al-Qadhdhafi's silence, capitulation and inability to reply. Relations with Al-Qadhdhafi continued to be governed by what could be achieved to serve the interests of the Libyan people and not Al-Qadhdhafi. The Saudi leadership had to carry out its duty toward a people who had to suffer the rule of an evil and reckless man who does not respect God's laws and has inflicted great harm on the whole nation. The Saudi leadership had to be diplomatic in order to minimize the damage and to prevent the spread of this shameless heresy.

Although the statement issued by the Council of Senior Ulema the day before yesterday pronouncing Al-Qadhdhafi a heretic and an atheist may have been somewhat late, it comes after patience has run out, after all attempts to persuade Al-Qadhdhafi to give up his heresy were exhausted and after the tyranny of this heretic had become unbearable.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is the evil phenomenon of our age. If this serious situation should worsen he will be a menance and a threat to all Muslims. One should not placate him or disregard his unethical conduct, his violation of sanctities, and his ridicule for the Koran and the Sunna. All Muslims without exception are urged to take collective action to rid the Muslim Libyan people of the infidel colonel, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This is the binding duty of every Muslim who is able to confront this atheistic devil, each according to his ability and in any way he can resist this atheist and his destructive activity.

The Muslim countries, the Arab League members and the OAU should also unite their efforts to expel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from their organizations because one should not mix with, speak to or sit down with such a person. The fraternal Libyan people must avenge themselves and their religion against the heresy of this shameless atheist, Mu'ammar ibn Rahil Rahmin (Hadarah), the heretic Zionist whom special circumstances have helped in making the ruler and dictator of a fraternal Arab and Muslim people now suffering from the oppression and tyranny of a regime the like of which the Arabs and Muslims have never seen throughout their history.

This bloody man who is stifling the heroic Libyan people has exceeded all limits. Now that all the attempts and efforts that have been made on all levels to reform him and bring him back to Islam have been exhausted, it is permissible for the first time in the history of Islam and Muslims to issue a universal edict proclaiming a man who represents the leadership of a fraternal Muslim Arab country an unbeliever.

It is the right of all Arabs and Muslims to deal with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the basis of his being an atheist and an infidel. Efforts should be made to topple him and to spare the fraternal Libyan people further ordeals and calamities which he may bring to them.

Mu'ammar ibn Rahil Rahmin (Hadarah) al-Qadhdhafi is a Zionist, an atheist and an infidel. Fighting him is a duty, and the ulema have sanctioned the shedding of his blood. Fighting Al-Qadhdhafi and toppling his regime has now become an Arab and Muslim demand and it is a holy duty to rid the Muslim nation of the evil of this shameless and corrupt heretic, of his sins and his transgressions against God's laws and book and the prophet's Sunna.

MUBARAK UNDERLINES U.S. TIES IN PARTY MEETING

NC231810 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has stated that there is an attempt to sour Egypt's relations with the United States. He said that this attempt will not succeed because Egypt's relations with the United States are extremely strong.

During his meeting with the members of the [NDP] parliamentary group representing 12 governorates today, President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt has special economic and military relations with the United States. He said that it is in Egypt's interest that these relations continue.

President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt is obtaining military and economic aid from the United States and, therefore, these [relations] must be preserved. He emphasized that there is no contradiction between this and Egypt's nonaligned status.

During the meeting, President Mubarak also dealt with what is being said about the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. He emphasized that Egypt does not fear anything. He said Egypt will purchase whatever it deems beneficial.

President Mubarak also dealt with the post-26 April phase. He said the fact that it will be a new phase does not mean that the sky is going to rain gold. With regard to what is being said about making changes during the current phase, President Mubarak explained that the changes will not involve personnel because that would lead us to what is worse. He said that the changes will involve methods and manner of action. He said that after 25 April, Egypt will require more efforts and greater vigilance. He added that the post-26 April phase means that the rest of the Sinai territory has reverted to Egypt.

'ALI TO DISCUSS ISRAELI VISIT IN CABINET

NC231632 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will discuss at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, the results of his meetings in Israel and his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

It is known that the talks dealt with the matters that are pending between the two countries and the ongoing dispute on the demarcation of the border at 15 points on the borderline between the two countries.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTARY LAUDS PEACE POLICY

NC221506 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Ahmad al-Qadir commentary: "Continuation of the Peace Process Will Surely Lead to the Achievement of a Comprehensive and Just Settlement in the Middle East"]

[Text] Among the basic characteristics of Egyptian policy at present are clarity of vision and the ability to determine the objective in an indubitable manner, whether with regard to foreign, domestic or economic policy. With regard to Egypt's foreign policy, particularly on the Middle East issue, Egypt has committed itself to a basic and principled strategy from which it cannot possibly deviate: The achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that will ensure the legitimate rights of all the region's peoples, including the Palestinian Arab people.

On the basis of Egypt's belief in peace and its continuation along this path, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak yesterday met with his top aides to discuss the continuation of the peace process following Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai as well as certain matters that are still pending with the Israeli side, especially the demarcation of the borderline at certain locations between the two countries.

The discussions also dealt with the future of the Egyptian-Israeli relations after 25 April in light of the talks which Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali held with Israeli officials on the means to strengthen relations between the two countries following the completion of withdrawal.

The whole world is now convinced of Egypt's commitment to and concern about the peace process in the Middle East in order to achieve a comprehensive political settlement in the region in accordance with the Camp David accords. This is the matter which prompted the international community to participate in bolstering the peace process by contributing to the setting up of the multinational force which will take up positions on the Egyptian-Israeli border. This force has begun arriving in Sinai to assume its final positions following the completion of the Israeli withdrawal.

Since Israel has committed itself to implementing its obligation to continue with the peace process and withdrawing from the Sinai in accordance with the Camp David agreements, there is no doubt that Egypt and all the peace-loving forces in the world expect Israel to continue along this path, particularly with regard to the question of autonomy for the Palestinains in the West Bank and Gaza sector. This is an important step on the path which will enable them to determine their own fate -- a matter which might encourage them to actually participate, together with other Arab parties, in the peace process.

When Egypt called for the continuation of the autonomy talks in order to achieve a declaration of principles that will be acceptable to the Palestinians, it was aware of all the dimensions of the situation on the grounds that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East conflict. The peace process which Egypt initiated in Camp David made it clear to the whole world in a realistic and tangible manner that war and repressive, terrorist methods are no longer effective in our contemporary world for the achievement of any expansionist aims or ambitions at the expense of others. On the contrary, such methods have proved that however complex and unsolvable all the international issues seem, they can be resolved through calm dialogue among the parties concerned in a civilized manner that will ensure the attainment of the vital interests and the legitimate rights of all the peoples of the world.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: ISRAEL'S LABOR NEEDS NEW POLICY

NC232318 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH demands that the Israeli opposition parties prove to the Palestinian people that they will adopt a new policy on the occupied Arab territory, particularly the West Bank and on the autonomy question, which is stumbling because of Begin's stubbornness.

In a commentary in its Wednesday edition, the paper says: If the opposition parties in Israel, led by the Labor Party, reject Begin's policy on the West Bank and demand the withholding of confidence in the government because of this wrong policy, then they must prove this.

AL-JUMHURIYAH refers to the motion of no confidence in Begin's government at the Knesset saying: We do not care if Begin's government wins or loses the motion of no confidence which will be put to vote at the Knesset. This is a purely Israeli matter and we do not make our political calculations on its basis.

The paper says: What is really of interest is that a new political stand should emerge from the current political conflict in Israel -- a stand which knows how to deal with the Palestinian people in the West Bank and knows that bullets, bombs and tear gas do not make people abandon their legitimate rights as long as they have blood flowing in their veins.

AL-JUMHURIYAH CALLS FOR 'NEW ISRAELI MENTALITY'

NC230804 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article published today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The disturbances throughout the occupied West Bank towns have reached a critical stage, affirming without doubt the failure of the method being followed by the Israeli occupation forces in administering the area for 15 years. Israel had imagined that the would turn an occupation into a fait accompli, that the passing of years without any changes in the area's conditions would make the Palestinian people accept the Israeli domination as an expression of absolute despondency. On the basis of this concept -- which is wrong -- Israel had adopted an obdurate stand at the autonomy talks and refused to grant the Palestinian people the right to administer their own affairs preliminary to their attainment of the right to self-determination.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The recent disturbances in the West Bank have reaffirmed to Israel that armed repression is not a sound method of dealing with the Palestinian people, and that this method will not make the Palestinians forget their identity, land and right to establish an independent homeland. The only solution for Israel is for it to admit the failure of the method of repression and to look for a new method to deal with the Palestinian people.

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The step that is demanded now is for Israel to enter the autonomy negotiations with a new mentality -- a mentality that recognizes all the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, because without recognizing these rights the situation in the Middle East will remain a powder keg that could explode at any moment.

GHALI TO CONFER WITH TOURE ON POLISARIO SUMMIT

NC221823 Cairo MENA in English 1740 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 22 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, said here today that he is on his way to Conakry to confer with President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea on the later's proposal to hold an African summit conference on the Polisario controversy.

Dr Ghali stopped over here today and told the Middle East News Agency that President Sekou Toure had written Egyptian President Husni Mubarak proposing an emergency conference of African foreign ministers to prepare for an African summit conference to discuss the Polisario problem.

He added that he would discuss the proposal with President Sekou Toure and convey to him a message from President Mubarak, Dr Ghali will also visit Dakar and return to Paris on Friday on his way back to Cairo.

PROSECUTOR SHELVES FORMER MINISTERS GRAFT CASE

NC221742 Cairo MENA in English 1720 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA) -- The public prosecution has decided to shelve the case involving Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, former deputy premier and minister of financial and economic affairs, and Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir, former minister of state for People's Assembly and Shura council affairs, as the investigation has cleared them of any suspicion of criminal action.

The two former ministers had been under press intimations that they had helped millionaire Rashad 'Uthman make a shady deal.

Public prosecutor Salah al-Murshidi said the prosecution had investigated with the two former ministers and other officials and found the two men free from any unlawful relationship with the millionaire.

The prosecutor said the investigation into the claim that Dr 'Abd al-Majid had helped 'Uthman regain five and half million pounds from advance customs dues on imported wood showed that 'Abd al-Majid's order was a blanket one affecting all wood importers from the public and private sectors.

The prosecutor said the competent officials concerned should have drawn the attention of Dr 'Abd al-Majid that the order to restore the amount to "Uthman was unlawful. The prosecutor added that 'Abd al-Majid had taken his decision on the basis of an advice from the council of state.

He added that 'Abd al-Majid's action was not a violation of the law but an administrative shortcoming due to inadequate attention in a case involving the public treasury.

The investigation also showed that Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir was not remiss in undertaking his ministerial functions and had no disgraceful relationship with Rashad 'Uthman.

"The lawful services and facilities given by 'Abd al-Akhir to Rashad 'Uthman were in the framework of 'Uthman's position as a deputy of the People's Assembly," said the prosecutor.

The recent intimations against the two former ministers, concluded the prosecutor, were designed to discredit senior officials from the back.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK ISSUES DECREE ON MEDIA POST

NC212025 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA) -- National Democratic Party leader President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a decree assigning to Muhammad Safwat ash-Sharif the responsibility of party supervision of the newspaper MAY and the AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI magazine.

ARMY COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 654

JN231809 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Communique No 654 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

It is not ye who slew them; it was God. [Koranic verse]

With support and might from almighty God and with the spirit of the heroism of the immortal ancestors, our armed forces are waging the battles of pride, honor and glory. The results of these battles are determined by the courage, sacrifice and dash of the valiant men of Mesopotamia and the Arab nation, who are honest with God, with themselves and with their living consciences and who are seeking with complete confidence and capability to return rights to their owners and to break up the empty arrogance and haughtiness of the Persian enemy, who wanted to harm and offend our nation. However, the enemy suffered a great deal on every inch of the battlefield while panting after its charlatanism, lies and black grudge against Iraq and its heroic people. Every day the racist Persians' great defeats continue and redouble and their successive defeats increase. Meanwhile, the determination and will of our valiant fighters becomes stronger and greater while they score victories and defeat the enemy with deadly blows until it returns to its senses, respects others and admits their rights.

The results of the battles in the Shush and Dezful areas were as follows:

The fierce battles are continuing between our army and the enemy's army on the Dezful-Shush front. Our brave units launched a quick large-scale counterattack after becoming aware of the enemy's attack yesterday. A brave and fierce battle raged when our bold army launched the counterattack. The battle is still going on and the enemy forces have retreated under our army's painful blows. Our units chased the defeated enemy units and encircled and isolated other units. The enemy left behind large number of intact tanks, vehicles, weapons and equipment. Large numbers of enemy personnel were captured. The following enemy units have been destroyed: the 1st Infantry Brigade of the 77th Division, the 2d Infantry Brigade of the 77th Division, the 3d Infantry Brigade of the 77th Division, the 1st Infantry Brigade of the 21st Division, the 2d Infantry Brigade of the 21st Division, the 3d Infantry Brigade of the 21st Division, the 4th Armored Brigade of the 21st Division, the 1st Armored Brigade of the 92d Armored Division, the 2d Armored Brigade of the 92d Armored Division, the 3d Armored Brigade of the 92d Armored Division, the 55th Paratrooper Brigade, the 84th Independent Brigade and large numbers of volunteers and charlatan Khomeyni guards.

Our units, which the enemy claimed it had destroyed in its false communiques issued yesterday, were the ones which destroyed the enemy's aforementioned units and are pursuing the remnants of these units. They will continue to pursue them until they wipe out the enemy units that remain, God willing.

The enemy's known losses counted by the competent parties up to the time of the issuance of this communique amount to more than 10,000 killed, thousands of wounded and many taken prisoners. Our forces destroyed 44 tanks, 14 personnel carriers, 14 vehicles, 7 guns and a large number of various types of weapons, hardware and military equipment. Fifty tanks, 16 106-MM guns, 15 personnel carriers, 4 tubular launchers and a large number of serviceable guns, mortars and various types of weapons were seized. We will announce the total number of our sacrifices in this battle in future communiques when the battle has been decisively settled by our victory, God willing, let the racist and rancorous enemy be spurned. We shall always be lying in wait for them. God will certainly let them down.

All day today, our fighter planes and helicopters continued their fierce, intensive raids against the enemy positions and concentrations in the Shush and Dezful areas in the southern sector of the theater of operations, scoring very effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on the remnants of the enemy and its armored vehicles, vehicles and equipment.

Explosions were heard and columns of smoke were sighted from the enemy's equipment, which was ablaze. Our fighter planes carried out 119 combat missions today. All our fighter planes and helicopters returned safely to base with the exception of one plane, which crashed over enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for safeguarding the life of its pilot.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1982

Communique No 655

JN231928 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1910 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Communique No 655 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The results of our armed forces' activities in the other sectors were as follows:

1. Our forward units strongly pounded the enemy positions, units and concentrations opposite our positions in the Ahvaz area, killing 62 and destroying 1 tank, 3 vehicles -- 1 loaded with hardware -- 2 stockpiles of hardware, 1 observation post and 2 boats.
2. Six were killed and one armored personnel carrier and one vehicle destroyed in the Abadan area.
3. Five were killed and one gun destroyed in the Nowsud area.
4. Five were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
5. Three were killed and three armored personnel carriers, three vehicles and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Bostan sector.
6. Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 81 killed and 1 tank, 4 armored personnel carriers, 7 vehicles, 1 gun, 4 stockpiles of hardware, 2 boats and 1 observation post destroyed.
7. Our sacrifices: seven martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1982

CAPTURED IRANIAN OFFICER REVEALS ATTACK PLANS

JN232012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA) -- A captured Iranian military commander with the rank of lieutenant colonel has announced that the Iranian attack in the Shush sector has failed to achieve its purposes due to the Iraqi forces' good tactics.

Lt Col (Bahman Taqwa), commander of Battalion 122 of the 77th Division, who was taken captive in Shush yesterday, said that -- in the attack against the Iraqi forces in Shush and Dezful -- Iran mobilized 2/3 of the military capabilities that can be mobilized for an offensive. He added that preparations were made for this attack for about 2 months and that it was planned to take place mainly in the Shush sector only.

The Iranian military man stressed that he has information and evidence affirming that Iran is using weapons imported from Israel and the imperialist states. He said that Syria and Libya offered financial aid and experts to Iran. He added that Syrian and Libyan military units, in addition to military experts from the two countries, are now present in Iran.

He spoke about the deterioration of the political, economic and social situation in Iran and said: The political situation is bad and the economic situation is worse. The universities are closed, prices are very high, the army is weak and the intellectuals and scholars have either fled the country or were executed in Iran.

SYRIAN OPPOSITION COALITION PUBLISHES CHARTER

JN240925 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1910 GMT 22 Mar 82

["Text" of the Charter of National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria issued in Damascus on 11 March 1982]

[Excerpts] The grave, tragic circumstances through which our people in Syria are passing under the dictatorship of Hafiz al-Asad are unprecedented. Hafiz al-Asad's acts of terrorism and bloddy practices have separated this regime from the circle of patriotism and have rendered it a real enemy of our people and their values and aspirations.

This criminal regime has deprived our people of the basic freedoms -- public and private freedoms -- thrown hundreds of our citizens into prison, subjected them to the ugliest acts of torture and assassinated hundreds in prison without interrogations or trials. This was evident in the mass murder that was committed in [name indistinct] prison when 120 women were assassinated and in the horrible massacre in Tudmur prison when 700 detainees were slaughtered on the direct instructions of Rif'at al-Asad.

The serious, criminal and treasonous role this regime is playing has prompted our people to carry arms and shoulder the responsibility of the valiant resistance, which offers thousands of innocent martyrs. This role makes it incumbent upon all parties, organizations and patriotic individuals to shoulder their responsibilities to fully support the revolution of our struggling people in order to end the pains and ordeals and to speed up the return of good health to the wounded national body. Therefore, all patriotic parties, organizations and individuals have collectively agreed to conduct a serious and responsible dialogue to deliver Syria from these ordeals, wreck the treasonous regime of Hafiz al-Asad and set up a constitutional parliamentary regime. This regime would ensure the multiplicity of parties and trends under which all citizens would enjoy equal rights and duties. This desired regime will be based on respecting the dignity of man and on guaranteeing man's general and private freedoms within the framework of the constitution and law. This regime will treat citizens equally regardless of their various religions, sects and trends. This kind of regime would enable Syria to once again play its pan-Arab, Islamic and international role. There will be no domination, dictatorship, totalitarianism, oppression or terrorism under this regime.

Against this overwhelming danger which is menacing Syria and threatening to disintegrate its national unity and people and to expose it to the Zionist and imperialist onslaught, it behooves all sides to shoulder the historical responsibility dictated by the nature of this phase. These sides must mend their differences, overcome all the negative aspects of the past and must look to the joint framework on which the sons of this people will agree in order to end the fabricated dispute between Arabism and Islam and to find a national alliance among these forces. This alliance should be open for all and capable, God willing, of wrecking the regime of treason and establishing the sound bases for open-minded and active political activity under which Syria will be a source of light in all ways of life.

The alliance parties have agreed on the following principles:

1. To work seriously and relentlessly to wreck the present regime by adopting various political, information, popular and military methods to attain this objective. Foremost among these methods is the popular armed struggle.

2. To bring to trial the regime's senior officials in view of their crimes against the people and homeland.

3. To form a provisional government immediately upon the collapse of the present regime. This government will supervise the election of a constituent council with the aim of charting of permanent constitution.

4. Islam will be the religion of the country and the Islamic Shari'ah the main authority for legislation and reform in its capacity as the cultural heritage and jurisprudence in Islam.

Its application shall not affect the rights of non-Muslims with regard to their faith, prayers and laws. They will enjoy their rights with freedom and security.

5. To guarantee public freedoms for all citizens in Syria, foremost among which is the freedom of faith, expression, meetings and formation of political parties.

6. To rebuild the Syrian Armed Forces and all the state's establishments on the bases of loyalty and efficiency and on the principle of equal opportunities. This is bound to restore and protect the national unity in Syria and would restore Syria's leading role in the region.

7. To remedy the deteriorating economic situation and to rebuild the Syrian economy on strong bases. This is bound to end the state of plundering of wealth and bribery. To invite Syrian know-how to return from abroad to contribute to rebuilding the country.

8. To protect the workers, peasants and toiling class and to beef up the gains scored during their protracted struggle since the inception of independence.

9. To reconsider the education curriculums in schools and institutions in order to end the current deteriorating situation and to qualify the country to shoulder its responsibilities in full.

10. To give full compensation to the families of martyrs and those harmed during the stage of struggle against the treasonous regime.

11. To have complete faith in the liberation of Palestine from the Zionist usurpation and imperialist hegemony. To use all methods not to relinquish the Arab and Islamic right in Palestine. To marshal all human, political and military potentials for the sake of liberation.

12. To form a militant solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and its sole and legitimate representative the PLO, for the sake of attaining the objectives of the Arab Palestinian people -- to liberate and regain their homeland.

13. To wage a determined struggle for establishing Arab unity and to exert the strenuous efforts necessary for achieving practical unity steps in this regard.

14. To work seriously for the sake of establishing the strongest relations with fraternal Arab countries and to marshal all potentials to ward off all dangers menacing Arab presence.

15. To establish the strongest fraternal relations with the Islamic world -- peoples, countries and organizations -- in order to consolidate the role of Islam in the whole world, because Islam is the strategic and principled depth of Arabism and Muslims are the strong supporters of the Arabs and Arab people.

16. Not to be involved in international conflicts and to abide by the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and to adopt an independent foreign policy.

Syria, which was the first Arab country to obtain complete independence, is capable of overcoming its tragedy. The alliance parties shall make this charter an axis and a framework for the future constitution and policy in Syria. These parties hope that the future republic in Syria will be a place on which the Arabs and Muslims can pin their hopes.

The alliance parties are eager to pursue ethics, justice and progress. They implore God to grant them success and victory. They urge the world's peoples and leaders to support them in their just struggle to deliver Syria from tragedy.

To those against whom war is waged, permission is given to fight because they are wronged; and verily God is most powerful for their aid. [Koranic verse].

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE ON W. BANK EVENTS

JN231949 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee held its 19th session in Amman today. The session was devoted to following up the valiant upheaval of our people in the occupied homeland. Our people have further confirmed their absolute rejection of the Israeli designs to impose the Civilian Administration and autonomy in accordance with the Camp David plot and to peddle the capitulatory settlements in order to liquidate the cause of Palestine.

The committee also discussed the recent developments that followed the Israeli occupation authorities' dissolution of the elected Al-Birah Municipal Council as well as the repressive and arbitrary measures that have again embodied the occupying forces' brutality, violence and terrorism and how these measures have been faced by our people's masses in a comprehensive and mighty upheaval.

The committee then revised the events in light of the Jordanian martial law administrator's decision regarding the so-called village leagues, which has incriminated the leagues' members and considered the leagues as part of a plot to create false organizations to peddle the Civilian Administration conspiracy. The committee valued the positive and effective results of this decision.

The joint committee praises the occupied land's masses for their heroic stand and mighty confrontation of the Israeli plots. The committee also praised our masses' valuable sacrifices that have further entrenched their national unity.

The committee praises the militant Arab citizens in the Golan who are valiantly facing the plot to Judaize and annex the Golan Heights.

The joint committee praises the stands of the municipal and village councils as well as the nationalist organizations that are steadfastly standing in the face of the Zionist enemy's pressures to force these councils to resign. The joint committee reconfirms that these councils, which represent the people, will not yield to any pressures and will continue to shoulder their duties from their legitimate positions to foil the Israeli designs.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will resume its followup of the militant developments of our masses' struggle in the occupied territories, pledging to continue to back their struggle, steadfastness and attachment to the homeland's soil and their national legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil.

The committee studied the various means to further bolster their national steadfastness under all circumstances, regardless of any barriers.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs; Sulayman 'Arar, minister of interior; 'Ali Suhaymat, minister of state for the prime minister's affairs and minister of transport; and Shawkat Mahmud, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Land Affairs.

Attending on the Palestinian side were Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member and chairman of the Occupied Homeland's Affairs Department; 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members; Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member; Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member; and Brig Gen 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-'Yahya, representative of the PLO Executive Committee in Amman.

TURKISH DEPUTY PREMIER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN211318 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 21 Mar (SANA) -- Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has stressed the importance of developing economic relations between Syria and Turkey in both countries' interests. In a statement upon arrival at Damascus airport this morning, Ozal expressed his happiness at visiting Syria. The Turkish deputy prime minister conveyed the Turkish people's greetings to the Syrian Arab people and expressed hope that the visit would be fruitful and successful and would contribute to expanding bilateral economic and technical cooperation.

During the 3-day visit, Ozal and his accompanying delegation will hold talks with Dr 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, on bilateral economic relations.

The Turkish delegation was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Dr Qaddurah, Dr Sharaf, Minister of Euphrates Dam 'Abd ar-Rahman Madani, Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur, the Turkish ambassador and embassy staff members.

Confers With Khaddam

JN221331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at 1000 today. The two sides discussed the current political situation in the Middle East and the world. They also discussed bilateral relations.

Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN231424 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at 1100 today. 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Ozal conveyed Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu's greeting to Dr al-Kasm. The talks dealt with historical relations between the Arab and Turkish peoples and various other issues that concern the two countries.

The prime minister was also briefed on the results of the Syrian-Turkish talks, which aim at bolstering the fruitful cooperation between Syria and Turkey. Ozal noted the importance of developing economic relations, particularly in the industrial and trade fields. He stressed that deepening this cooperation serves the two peoples' interests and draws up sound bases for the two countries' developed relations.

Dr al-Kasm stressed the importance of developing Syrian-Turkish economic relations and of realizing the two peoples' aspirations for fruitful cooperation in all fields. The prime minister also indicated the real aims of Zionism and its allies in this region as well as in Asia and Africa, pointing out the dangers of these aims and the need to confront them. At the end of the meeting, he asked Ozal to convey his greetings to the Turkish prime minister.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN231644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal at 1600 today. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Mustafa Aksin, Turkey's ambassador in Damascus.

Ozal conveyed to his excellency the president a message of greetings from Turkish President Kenan Evren. President al-Asad asked Ozal to convey his greetings to the Turkish president. The discussion focused on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Agreements, Protocol Signed

TA230637 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Seven agreements covering cooperation between Turkey and Syria in the economic, trade and scientific fields as well as a general protocol were signed in Damascus today. The agreements were signed by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah in a special ceremony held today. The agreements envisage the formation of a joint economic committee that will meet once a year to review the development of bilateral economic relations. An important agreement was also signed concerning highway transportation. The agreement calls for measures to eliminate difficulties for trucks at border checkpoints as well as the speeding up of necessary paperwork. An agreement covering the elimination of smuggling between the two countries envisages the solution of existing customs problems.

In a statement at the signing ceremony, Ozal expressed his hope that relations between Turkey and Syria would improve. He added that the signing of the agreements represents an important step for prospective cooperation between the two friendly countries. Ozal pointed out that the promotion of relations would contribute to the improvement of economic development in both countries.

In reply, Qaddurah said that a new stage in bilateral relations has been reached. He added that beneficial results had been reached at the end of the talks and that agreements had been attained in all subjects under discussion.

Ozal was received today by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. An ANATOLIA report says that in a statement following the meeting, Ozal said that bilateral relations were reviewed and that the wish was expressed during the visit that the border between Turkey and Syria should serve to bring together and not separate the two countries. He added that the Syrian president had conveyed his best wishes to head of state Kenan Evren.

Ozal was also received today by Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm. The official Syrian news agency reports that during the meeting the Syrian prime minister briefed Ozal on Israeli moves that are endangering peace in the region. Ozal and al-Kasm also discussed the promotion of bilateral relations in the economic and other fields. Ozal and the delegation accompanying him will return home tomorrow.

OFFICIAL CALLS FOR ISLAMIC ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

TA231548 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1520 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 March (AA) -- (From AA correspondent) Syria's vice premier for economic affairs, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, called for an economic organization similar to the EEC in Europe.

In an interview with Turkish reporters in Damascus concerning the Turkish Deputy Premier Turgut Ozal's current visit to Syria, Qaddurah said solidarity is needed among Moslem countries. Referring to Turkey's place in the Islamic world, Qaddurah said regardless of how much any one country faces West, the most important links between countries are neighborliness and religion.

Islam rejects the recognition of Israel, which has continued aggression against Arab countries, the Syrian deputy premier said. He noted that the Iran-Iraq war serves the interests of the United States and hoped the hostilities would be halted as soon as possible.

He said his government wants to strengthen trade and economic relations with Turkey and noted that there is a wide potential for this. Ozal's visit will give impetus to a new phase in Turkish-Syrian relations, he added.

YUGOSLAV INTERIOR MINISTER CONTINUES VISIT

Meets With Al-Kasm

JN231514 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) -- Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Yugoslav Interior Minister Franjo Herljevic this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Nasir ad-Din Nasir and the Yugoslav ambassador in Damascus.

The discussion focused on the solid relations of the friendship and cooperation that exist between the two countries.

The Yugoslav minister stated that his country strongly supports Syria against the Zionist and imperialist schemes in the region and elsewhere.

Dr al-Kasm stressed the importance of the two friendly countries' joint struggle for consolidating the nonaligned movement and for its serious work to prepare for the forthcoming nonaligned summit conference. He also praised the good and advanced relations between Syria and Yugoslavia.

Dr al-Kasm noted the imperialist onslaught against this region at this stage is one of the fiercest onslaughts to foil the Arab masses' struggle for liberation and that Syria, which shoulders a huge burden in the confrontation of enemy schemes, is determined to pursue this confrontation in all circumstances.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN232024 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- President Hafiz al-Asad received Yugoslav Interior Minister Gen Franjo Herljevic at 1700 today. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Nasir ad-Din Nasir and the Yugoslav ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed bilateral friendly relations, issued related to the Nonaligned Movement and bilateral cooperation within the framework of this movement.

The Yugoslav minister conveyed to the president greetings from the Presidential Council, party and government in Yugoslavia. The president expressed his thanks for these greetings and in turn asked him to convey similar greetings to the Yugoslav leadership.

BEGIN TO RESIGN IN CASE OF NO-CONFIDENCE TIE VOTE

TA230956 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 82 p 1

[By Gid'on Reicher and Shelomo Naqdimon]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will go to the president and submit his resignation if the no-confidence vote in the Knesset ends in a tie today. Mr Begin has expressed himself to that effect a number of times in recent days, it was reported on behalf of the prime minister's office. Today the Knesset will discuss three motions of no-confidence in the government submitted by the Alignment, Shinuy and RAKAH factions. According to calculations made in the coalition, the Knesset will reject the three motions but only by a small majority.

KNESSET OPENS DEBATE ON NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

Peres on Golan, W. Bank Policy

TA231545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The presentation of proposals to the Knesset [in the debate on the motion of no-confidence has begun. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, who was explaining the Alignment faction's motion of no-confidence, said that the government, in the current Knesset session, has not functioned on almost every issue it was involved in, beginning with the treatment of the evacuation of the Rafah approaches and going on to the establishment of the committee to investigate the Arlosoroff murder. Here is our correspondent Moshe Hakohen from the Knesset plenum:

[Hakohen -- live] This government apparently thinks that anyone who does not applaud its actions and recognize the superior wisdom of its deeds is a traitor to the homeland, Shim'on Peres said, and this is complete lack of understanding of democracy. Peres attacked what he regards as the government's blunders. He criticized the treatment of the evacuation of the Rafah approaches and then attacked the decision to impose a siege on the Druze villages in the Golan Heights.

[Begin Peres recording] Why was it necessary at all to impose a siege? If a Druze wants to go out, he will be asked for an identity card. If he has one, they will let him. If he does not have one, they will not let him. Why all this drama? What interest do we have in presenting the State of Israel like this? Instead of wisdom, consideration and patience, we have turned -- or, to be more precise, you have turned -- to measures that are not essential; to a siege that harms us both; to a severance that stands in contradiction of our own view. [as heard] [end recording]

[Hakohen] From there, Peres moved on to attack the government policy in Judaea and Samaria. The government wants to replace a policy of open bridges and closed safety catches with Jordan with a policy based on the establishment of a Palestinian ghetto in Judaea and Samaria.

[Begin Peres recording] What is the declared policy now? To go mad? To close the bridges? To block off the borders? To bring a wind of violence over the waters of the Jordan River? There is no argument at all, Knesset members, that when terrorists lift their heads or threaten the security of the inhabitants, whether they are Jewish or Arab, we must act against them unhesitatingly. The question, of course, is: using what measures and what policy. This question, Knesset members is not addressed to the soldiers of the IDF. They have the trust of us all -- today, yesterday and tomorrow; to obey orders; for enormous restraint.

I know how much they are showing restraint -- they and their commanders -- everywhere, at every time, when they are required to do this. [end recording]

[Hakohen] MK Peres concluded with a frontal attack on the Cabinet decision to establish a national investigations committee on the matter of the Arlosoroff murder. The Labor movement is not afraid of a confrontation with the revisionist movement, Peres said, and it has nothing to conceal on the issue, but it is worrisome that what is disturbing the government these days is not the present, but affairs aimed at raking up feelings from the past. Concluding, Peres called on the Knesset to express no confidence in the government and after him MK Me'ir Wilner got up on the podium and attacked the government for its policy in Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights.

No-Confidence Motion Presented

TA231724 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1520 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] [Knesset reporter Moshe Hakohen -- live from the Knesset] Right now occupying the speakers' podium at the Knesset is MK Amnon Rubinstein, who is presenting the motion of no confidence -- the third and last one for today -- on behalf of Shinuy. He strongly criticized the Cabinet's measures on the Golan Heights, measures which he says are infested with illegalities. The Cabinet, says Rubinstein, has created a situation where in wanting to catch all it caught nothing. The entire problem is its own creation, and Israeli law should not have been applied to the Golan. Once applied, there was no need to impose a blockade on the Druze who refused to accept that law. It is on this matter that he is presently conducting a prolonged argument with the prime minister and with the justice minister, with both of them interrupting his address with interjections. Let us transfer the broadcast to the plenary hall for a brief moment to hear him.

[Rubinstein] Mr Prime Minister...[interrupted by interjections]

[Hakohen] Now MK Mordekhay Gur of the Alignment argues with the prime minister over Mr Begin's contention that what the Cabinet does is to enforce Israeli law on the Golan Heights. The speaker, MK Amnon Rubinstein, on the other hand -- who incidentally has the right to speak -- is forced to listen to this argument between the two.

Sharon Remarks

TA231640 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1543 GMT 23 Mar 82

[IDF radio live coverage of Sharon Knesset remarks in the debate on the motion of no confidence; IDF coverage intercepted Sharon's remarks in progress]

[Text] We will now go over to our correspondent Moshe Hakohen to hear the defense minister's remarks from the podium. Moshe, over to you:

Well, the defense minister, Ari'el Sharon, got up on the speakers' podium a few minutes ago in order to reply to three motions of no confidence raised here in the Knesset. We will go over to the plenum and hear what he is saying. Well, we are not hearing Sharon's words, but angry interruptions by MK Tawfiq Tubi from HADASH and the defense minister is listening calmly to the words and sipping from a glass of water at his side.

[Knesset Speaker Savidor] I am calling upon you to moderate....

[Sharon] As....

[Savidor] ...your language. In the final analysis, all your faction's accusations have already been made by MK Wilner. Everything has been said here, there is no need to repeat it, let the minister now reply to all you have said.

[Sharon] And, since... [more interruptions]

[Hakohen] Now Charlie Biton is joining in the heckling.

[Sharon] And, since it is not convenient to join someone who has incited the murder of Jews, they widened their sights, they also dealt with other issues. MK Shim'on Peres outdid them all and MK Amnon Rubinstein followed him. They widened a little, in order not to enter exactly the shoes of [word indistinct], RAKAH, HADASH -- they are all the same. They widened a little. I will yet have many things to say to you today.

Honored Speaker, permit me to disperse the smokescreen and get straight down to the issues that have served as an excuse for the motions of no confidence brought to the Knesset today. These are the issues of Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights. But it is a little difficult; we have heard much talk today. Oh, how much talk we have heard today. How many times have tongues wagged? How many times have we heard... And, I would say, it is impossible, entirely impossible not to say a few words about the points raised here. Shim'on Peres, MK Shim'on Peres, the lessening of security -- untrue. The Rafah approaches, MK Shim'on Peres -- untrue. [shouting] The identity cards, MK Shim'on Peres -- untrue. [shouting increases] Shaykh Amin Tarif, MK Shim'on Peres -- untrue. Perhaps -- but, perhaps....

[Speaker Savidor] Please, members of Knesset....

[Hakohen] The remarks by Minister Sharon are arousing a storm from the Alignment benches, as you can hear.

[Savidor] Untrue, untrue is a parliamentary expression. As far as I can remember, when people say "lie" that is not parliamentary. Please, let the minister speak. [shouting increases] MK Charlie Biton, nobody heckled MK Wilner, why are you heckling now?

[Sharon] I want to tell the members of the house that on 25 February 1982, the director of the prime minister's office informed the head of the Druze sect -- on 25 February 1982, much, much before you, MK Shim'on Peres, came out with that accusation, that Shaykh Amin Tarif was not being allowed to visit the Golan Heights. Back on 25 February 1982, the director of the prime minister's office informed the head of the Druze sect that he could visit the Golan Heights whenever he wanted and he could meet the people from the Golan Heights. This announcement was delivered to the home of Shaykh Amin. It is worth being trustworthy [play on words -- amin in Hebrew is trustworthy, credible]. It is worth being trustworthy. [heckling] The closure of the bridges, MK Shim'on Peres, untrue. Who intended to close the bridges at all? Who showed any desire to close the bridges at all? Untrue. The Lavi, MK Shim'on Peres, untrue. Africa, MK Shim'on Peres, untrue. We certainly have differences of opinion with the United States, but something happened in our relations with the United States. I remember very well the visit of the first prime minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion of blessed memory. I remember this visit, when he wanted to meet.... [shouting] ...when he wanted to meet... [shouting]

[Hakohen] The Alignment benches continue to outshout the defense minister.

[Sharon] I remember the visit, his visit in 1962, when, in order to meet the U.S. President, he was the last, he had to go to New York in secret. That period, MK Shim'on Peres, is over.

It is over. The requests, the trips with the shopping baskets, with the planning, I am not referring to the visit by David Ben-Gurion because he was not like that. Those visits with shopping baskets; shopping and shopping. Yes, I would say, fawning, as there was, that period, MK Shim'on Peres, is over. These certainly are differences of opinion, there are differences of opinion, there are very deep differences of opinion and there will be very deep differences of opinion, but the United States treats this government with respect [kavod] because this government insists on what it wants. [shouting increases]

[Knesset speaker tries unsuccessfully to impose order on the heckling Knesset members]. [Hakohen] There is mutual heckling from the Alignment and Likud benches because of the last remarks made by the defense minister about the attitude of respect with which the U.S. Government treats the current government.

[Savidor] MK Jacques Amir, that name is beautiful, too, please, MK Flower [play on Hebrew word], I am asking for silence.

[Sharon] Gentlemen, Knesset members, and I am directing my words mainly at the Knesset members from the opposition, I once said here, at one of the appearances in which the opposition interruptions became overwhelming, I said, I am not in a hurry. You are shouting: We are building settlements, laying roads, putting down pipelines, running electric cables, I said that then. Today, gentlemen, members of the opposition, I am not in a hurry today, either interrupt some more, everything will last longer, I believe that the majority we are going to have will increase. We are not in a hurry today.

[Hakohen] MK Aharon Nahmias mentioned to the defense minister that the prime minister had said that if the vote ends in a tie he will go to the president.

[Sharon] I am not sure, but there is not much point risking speculation.

Mr Speaker, Knesset members, in effect, if the opposition had really seen things the right way -- not that, heaven forbid, it accepts the Cabinet actions lock, stock and barrel, this cannot be expected of the opposition -- there would be no reason for this. But if it had really observed the national issues in their proper context, the issue that should have been topical here today, the one behind which this entire house should have united, would have been another. In my opinion, if we had a serious opposition, what should have been up for discussion today is... [indistinct interjection]

There is a serious government. I would have raised for debate at the Knesset today an issue which, to my mind, the entire house should have concentrated on, and that is the statement issued on Amman radio on 9 March 1982 on behalf of the Jordanian military governor -- according to Jordanian law he is the prime minister, and currently it is Mudar Badran -- who announced that a decree has been issued imposing a death penalty and the confiscation of all property of those who do not resign within 1 month from the area village leagues. This was the statement. I must say, Knesset members... [cut off by indistinct interjections]

[Hakohen] We should express no confidence in the Jordanian Government, Yosi Sarid says.

[Sharon] Knesset members, capital punishment for being a member of an area village league? Supposing even it were a political association -- where in the world has such a thing been heard before? That people organizing for the sake of improving their standard of living are liable to a death sentence? That people who do not recognize the PLO's murderers and are not prepared to succumb to them...

[Hakohen] You are killing Arabs, MK Tawfiq Zayyad of RAKAH, calls.

[Sharon] Are they to die? Is that their fate, death? This is what should have been...

[Hakohen] The Knesset debate here continues. The defense minister is continuing his response, which will probably last for more than an hour, after which a factional debate will begin, at the end of which the vote will come. Its results are still not completely clear. That is all from the Knesset.

Sharon, Peres Debate

TA231759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] There has been an unprecedented wrestling match in the Knesset between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres during the debate on the motion of no confidence in the government. The debate has been very stormy, accompanied by a great deal of heckling and at this moment it is not clear yet how MK Druckman and the representatives of Telem and Tehiya will vote. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports to us from the Knesset.

[Golan -- live] Well, the Telem members are still telling the parliamentary correspondents that they have not decided how they will vote on the motion of no confidence. Tehiya is leaning toward voting with the Alignment and against the government if there is any chance of overthrowing the government. MK Druckman, NRP, is also not yet announcing how he will vote at the end of the debate. The beginning of the debate on the motions of no confidence was calm, when Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres attacked what he viewed as the government's failures.

[Begin Peres recording] The current Knesset session has witnessed grave political errors, arbitrary functioning by the government, the loss of national norms and overblown rhetoric unprecedented in our parliamentary life. We have witnessed a painful process of evacuating the Rafah approaches with failure in treatment of the arrangement for compensating the settlers. We have seen how the autonomy negotiations turned into a shuttle trip until it reached a dead end. We have seen how a siege was imposed on the Golan Heights, actually after the Golan Heights, formally, was made subservient to Israeli law. We have seen almost an attempt to collapse the policy of open bridges and its actual replacement with the creation of a Palestinian ghetto inside Israel's territories. We have seen how, out of all the promises about the Lavi, there is only a piece of paper, without a budget. We have seen how our relations with the United States have deteriorated and we have seen how the Israeli economy is again subject to renewed inflation and a deepening of our dependence on foreign elements. [end recording]

[Golan] Later there were speeches by representatives of HADASH and Shinuy. They also levelled severe criticism at the government's policy. But the storm broke when the defense minister mounted the podium to reply and to propose striking down the motions of no confidence. Ari'el Sharon concentrated his attack directly on Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres.

[Begin Sharon recording] I would like to address myself to MK Shim'on Peres and tell him: You, MK Shim'on Peres, you increased PLO influence in Judaea and Samaria by a series of catastrophic decisions. You caused the fact, MK Shim'on Peres, that the PLO [shouts]... that the PLO took over the key positions in Samaria and Judaea. Shim'on Peres, MK Shim'on Peres, I am right now going to quote from your words and I think that you will hide your face in shame, you will hide your face in shame. [end recording]

[Golan] At the sound of protests from the Alignment members, the minister of defense finally gave up quoting from the secret document he was holding in his hand and then he did not give up, he addressed another question to Peres.

[Begin Sharon recording] I want to ask you one question: Did you once say, in this forum: The PLO people will be elected, they will be elected [yibahru], did you once say such a thing? [shouts] Did you not say such a thing?

[Peres] I want to answer the question. I want to answer the question. A distinction should be drawn between three things here: If a Palestinian supports a Palestinian state, it is his right to support it and we cannot arrest him. If he is a formal member of the PLO, the PLO organization, if he participates in terrorist actions, he must not be elected and he must not vote. To the best of my knowledge, excuse me, do not interrupt me, to the best of my knowledge, not one mayor who was elected was a member of the PLO organization, or was involved in terrorist actions and cannot be dismissed because of his views and neither can one dismiss him in autonomy and you -- do not incite and do not confuse concepts here -- and you are getting up on the podium here and inciting the nation, people who do not understand the difference. You say: You raised the PLO. What do you mean, raised the PLO? Have I not fought the PLO? Have these people not cooperated with us? They declared what they declared, and are you sure that [word indistinct] Dudin will not declare otherwise? Are there no people among them who want a Palestinian state? Do they all agree with your views? Be responsible, precise. Do not get up on that podium to incite. [end recording]

[Golan] And this is how this wrestling match continued for more than an hour. Sharon's speech was very sharp and long and aroused many reactions from all parts of the house. In the meantime, the factional debate has begun here in the plenary hall and everyone, in fact, is waiting for the vote. In the meantime, people are taking advantage of the time for further Likud persuasion attempts with members of Telem and Rabbi Druckman, to persuade them to vote with the government and reject the motion of no confidence. These matters will doubtless become clearer within the next few hours. That is all from the Knesset at this stage.

Further Knesset Speeches

TA231845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1740 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpts] We are now returning to the Knesset, where the debate on the motion of no confidence in the government is continuing. Our correspondent Razi Barqay is in the Knesset.

[Barqay -- live] We hear you calling us. Right up to this moment we have been preparing for broadcasting and I understand that you want, first of all, a picture of the situation, what is happening in the plenum. Arye Golan, over to you.

[Golan -- live] At this moment in the plenum, the faction announcements are continuing. At this moment MK Tawfiq Tubi, HADASH, is on the speakers' podium. All the factions' representatives are listed for the debate and at the end of these statements by the factions there will be the vote for which everyone has been waiting for several hours.

[Barqay] We will now let you hear long sections from the debate here and at the end of playing these sections, we will try to analyze what we can expect in the vote. That being so, we must say that there is an eve of elections atmosphere here in the Knesset buidling -- great tension and great drama. We still do not know how the members of the small factions will vote and the speeches, it is true, opened on a minor tone, but gradually such a storm of feelings broke out here that it recalled the ninth Knesset and most of its time in office. We will first hear a section of the speech by MK Me'ir Wilner, HADASH. Wilner was one of those who submitted a motion of no confidence in the government and he repeated the position of his faction, the HADASH faction, on what is occurring in the territory of Judaea and Samaria.

[Begin Wilner recording] We are proposing a motion of no confidence in the government that wants, with blood and fire, to impose the Civilian Administration, the annexation, in fact, of the West Bank and of the Gaza Strip. We are proposing no confidence in the Begin-Sharon government, which is using cruel colonialist methods in order to kill and wound Palestinian demonstrators, men, women and children. We are proposing no confidence in a government that dismissed the Al-Birah municipality, elected by the inhabitants, and forcibly evicted the elected mayor, Ibrahim at-Tawil, and appointed a permanent committee from the army.

These steps are a new phase in the increase of the cruel operation of the conquered Arab territories. [end Wilner recording]

[Barqay] Those were the remarks by the HADASH faction representative, Mk Me'ir Wilner. They were heard more or less calmly and after him there was an aggressive opposition speech by the Shinuy faction member, Mk Amnon Rubinstein. Rubinstein said that the chief problem today, in the State of Israel, is the matter of emigration. He described this as the negative balance of emigration from Israel. This is national information of prime importance. That is what Mk Amnon Rubinstein said.

Tension rose when the opposition chairman, Shim'on Peres, went to the podium. He enumerated, one by one, what he described as the serious errors of the Likud government. One of those serious errors, in his opinion, was relations with the United States.

[Begin Peres recording] The deterioration of relations with the United States: Members of Knesset, I will use understatement: After the terrible exaggerations by the prime minister about the amount of understanding which he reached with the U.S. administration, came the no less terrible exaggerations about the U.S. intention to turn us into poor vassals of theirs, into a banana republic. One day we were told by the prime minister that there was a memorandum of understanding, a memorandum described by Mr Menahem Begin, and I will quote him: As a new thing for us -- note well -- a new thing for us, a new thing for the United States of America -- that is not sufficient -- a new thing for the free world. Everything has changed with that memorandum of understanding. And the papers were filled with descriptions of how our aerial umbrella would be given to the 6th Fleet, how our stores would be filled with strategic goods, how joint maneuvers would be held, how great orders for exports and development would flow to us and, of course, how we would help the United States repulse Soviets in the Middle East, in Africa, in Asia -- this is no more a provincial policy as there was in the Alignment period, Defense Minister Sharon -- from Afghanistan to Turkey.

[Barqay] The chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, had sharp words for the defense minister and the prime minister and at this point tension peaked. The Cabinet sent Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to the speakers' podium. Sharon was equipped with sheets of paper with many facts about the period of Alignment rule. He tried to deny, one by one, the claims made by Shim'on Peres, and Arik Sharon's words, said in very hard-hitting language and very direct, aroused great anger in the opposition benches.

Perhaps one more thing from Ari'el Sharon's speech, you mentioned it, Arye, in the report we gave at the beginning of the newsreel. Well, Ari'el Sharon, during his speech, tried to quote from a secret report of the Defense Ministry when the defense minister was then Shim'on Peres. A great shout went up in the hall and notes were sent to Ari'el Sharon from the government and opposition benches and he was asked to refrain from quoting that session which, the Alignment members claim, was a secret session. According to what we have succeeded in picking up, the issue concerns remarks made by Shim'on Peres when he was defense minister about the attitude toward the Arabs of the territories, about the attitude toward the PLO. In the end, Ari'el Sharon refrained from quoting directly from the document, but he asked rhetorical questions. He asked Shim'on Peres questions that we heard at the beginning of the broadcast, and because of those questions, we can understand what was in the document. Finally, we are now at the peak of the debate, the factions are making statements. Still, although we are very near the time to vote, to our regret, we have no authoritative information about how the vote will come out. Mk Druckman is being pressed from all directions. Just this minute we have received a note saying that the NRP faction is going to expel Rabbi Druckman from his membership in the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee if he votes against the government. There is pressure, as we have heard, on members of Tehiya and the two Telem members. There was a rumor in the building this afternoon that Telem will split in the vote. Mk Ben-Porat will abstain and so he will save the government and Mk Yiga'el Hurwitz will join the Alignment.

Perhaps for listeners who are not well acquainted with all the arithmetical calculations, the abstention of one of those we mentioned, that is, the two Telem faction members, the three Tehiya faction members and MK Druckmen, the abstention of one of them would be sufficient for the government to win a majority. If all those six vote against the government, that is, in favor of the Alignment's motion of no confidence, there would be a draw and the prime minister has announced more than once that, for him, a draw means going to the president and resignation. Please wait patiently for another hour when we will be able to report the results of the voting here in the Knesset building. Our team of technicians, Arye Golan and Razi Barqay, return you to the studio.

Begin Remarks

TA232049 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] At this very moment the debate on the three motions of no confidence in the government submitted by the Alingment, Shinuy and HADASH factions is continuing. We are now going over to a live broadcast from our correspondent Yoram Ronen, who is in the Knesset building.

[Ronen] Well, right now Prime Minister Menahem Begin is due to end his speech concluding the debate, the main point of which was that the Alingment is supplying Israel's enemies, the Arabs, with ammunition for the debate in the UN Security Council scheduled to begin tomorrow. We will try to hear the prime minister.

[Begin] Sir, I have no argument with you. I have no argument with you Mr Tawfiq Tubi, you know that both of us, for a long time now, we are both from the first Knesset in this house. I am not arguing with you. We live in different worlds.

[Ronen] The prime minister often argues with Alingment Knesset members. He recalled the Alingment faction's session held the day before yesterday, 21 March, when it was said that IDF soliders were shooting at children. Such a statement, the prime minister said, will supply very grave ammunition to Israel's enemies in the UN Security Council tomorrow.

[Begin] Ask what is happening in Poland today, so you will know....

[Ronen — interrupting] The prime minister said: We will not spill Arab blood, nor will we spill Jewish blood. He recalled last night's scenes on television when stones and rocks were being gathered to throw at IDF soldiers. He said that even during the Alignment's rule, there was tension in Judaea and Samaria. Then, too, blood was spilled, but then the Likud did not interfere with the Alignment in imposing law and order.

[Begin]...and I said in the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee then, but now I will read to you what another man said about that then, and there was also one mistake: The elections of local authorities in April 1976, by their timing and their form, brought forth a negative result, the victory of the PLO supporters, both overt and covert; it supported the wave of nationalism in Judaea and Samaria and helped the PLO to consolidate the claim that it, and only it represents the Arabs in the territories and faithfully represents....Who said those things? Why are you laughing, Yitzhaq? [laughter from the Knesset] Why are you laughing? Did I say it was you? [more Knesset laughter]

[Ronen] Well, the prime minister has reminded Yitzhaq Rabin, the former prime minister, what he said in 1976, if I am not mistaken, when PLO supporters were elected to head municipalities in Judaea and Samaria.

Knesset Vote 'Draw'

TA231928 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1916 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Announcement of Knesset voting results by Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor -- live]

[Text] Knesset members, 58 against 58. The motion of no confidence has not been approved. [Correspondent Yoram Ronen] Well, that is the result, a draw result committing the prime minister, as he said, to go to the president of the state. Well, the prime minister, in the name of the government, wants to close the session and, as we said, he will convene a special Cabinet session in view of the result, the draw result.

POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO PRIME MINISTER EXAMINED

TA231959 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] We are now returning to the Knesset to hear if anything new has occurred.

[Ronen -- live] Well, right now, here in the Knesset building, in the prime minister's office, a consultation is ending in which all the Cabinet members are taking part, led by the prime minister, and all the members of the Knesset Likud faction. The prime minister is now faced with two alternatives: One, to go to the president of the state and submit his resignation and then to perhaps take upon himself again the task of trying to establish a government headed by the Likud. The second possibility, and it appears that this possibility is more acceptable to the prime minister at this moment, the other possibility is to ask the Knesset to dissolve and the Cabinet will then be entitled to declare new general elections to the 11th Knesset, as soon as possible.

On the basis of brief talks we managed to hold here with ministers before the consultation in the prime minister's office began, it seems to us that this is the possibility the prime minister will choose, that is, to ask for the dissolution of the Knesset and the holding of new general elections very soon, but everything is still open. The consultation, we are told, will continue in the prime minister's office for at least a full hour and, at the same time, the Alignment Knesset faction is meeting in order to decide on its next move in preparation for the possibility that the government will resign and the possibility apparently the more reasonable one, that new general elections will be declared within a few months. Well, both the coalition and opposition factions are now holding feverish consultations, these consultations will certainly go on deep into the night and we will continue to broadcast from here, during the evening, from the Knesset building. I am now returning the broadcast to the studio.

CABINET TO CONVENE, DISCUSS KNESSET VOTE

TA232024 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] After the Knesset vote on the no confidence motion ended in a draw, the Cabinet convened in the Knesset building to discuss the next developments. A tie in no confidence vote does not cause the Cabinet to fall but Mr Begin had announced even before the voting took place that he would not tolerate such a result and will go to the president to submit his resignation.

In the vote that took place an hour ago, 58 opposition members together with Mr Hayim Druckman of the NRP voted against the Cabinet, and the same number of hands were raised in support of the Cabinet. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes that the vote was not coincidental, but a question of principle and it is obvious now that the Cabinet does not enjoy a majority and it cannot gain support for its policy.

Two budget issues are on the agenda: the supplementary budget for the current fiscal year and the interim budget for next year. If those issues were put to the vote this evening, they would most probably have been defeated.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay will now broadcast from the Knesset on the lastest developments:

[Barqay -- live] This is a dramatic session held by the Israeli Cabinet after the tie in the Knesset vote. The prime minister might announce during that session that he is resigning, and with him the entire Cabinet as a result, and going to the president. Right now we do not know what the prime minister plans to decide, but -- judging by remarks he made in the past -- for him a tie is not an expression of confidence and a tie, he said, will lead him to the president of the state. However, the ministers have been trying to persuade Mr Begin not to rush to make a hasty decision. Among them is Minister Zvulun Hammer, who a few minutes ago told our correspondent Arye Golan that he is against the Cabinet resigning.

[Begin recording] [Hammer] First of all, I am going to join the Cabinet members for the session. In my opinion, when a no-confidence motion is not passed, there is no reason the cabinet should not continue to serve.

[Golan] This is true if one talks about formalities, but the prime minister...

[Hammer, interrupting] Even beyond formal considerations, there are governments in the world that are minority governments, and sometimes the Cabinet cannot function in that it cannot get a budget bill passed or if it cannot properly conduct the affairs of the state -- well, in such cases there is room to question whether the Cabinet can continue in office or not. If the Cabinet does not enjoy confidence, this is impossible, but if there is a chance that it could function in other spheres and the no-confidence motion did not win a majority -- I do not understand why it should resign.

[Question] This happened largely because Rabbi Druckman voted against the government -- he being a member of your party, do you think he should return his mandate to the party?

[Answer] No. I think the NRP decided at the time that on issues pertaining to the Sinai it would permit Rabbi Druckman to act according to his understanding. He must have interpreted this to mean that this issue is also included in this ruling. I do not think we, the members of the party, should do anything about this. I think the Cabinet should not resign.

[Golan] This was Minister Zvulun Hammer. Members of the Telem faction contributed not insubstantially to the parliamentary confusion that prevailed just now. Mordekhay Ben-Porat again keeps telling us that only a broadly based Cabinet will be able to overcome the difficulties.

[Ben-Porat] We thought that this way we would be able to unite the ranks and establish a national unity government in the country. In my opinion this is the solution we need today in the country in view of the challenges -- economic, social and political -- with which the country is faced.

[Question] But the Alignment objects to establishing such a government.

[Answer] do not know. The Alignment will have to face the test of history and the people. If it continues to oppose this, then naturally the public will learn the proper lessons regarding the Alignment.

[Question] Do you believe that despite the tie Prime Minister Menahem Begin should announce his resignation?

[Answer] No. In my opinion, he should now try to increase the effort to establish a national unity government.

We began this yesterday in talks both with the prime minister and with the head of the opposition -- which I am not at liberty to disclose even one word on what was said -- still I have ground to believe that there is room for the contacts to continue.

[Golan] Meanwhile, we encountered silence from the Alignment. Shim'on Peres will only react after the Israeli Government makes a decision. [end recording]

LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN REACTS TO KNESSET VOTE

TA232040 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2028 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres reaction to the Knesset vote of no confidence in the government -- live in the Knesset building]

[Text] [Peres] First of all, a faction composed of people who do not always meet against a common background, that does not mean very much, but as the main opposition in the Knesset, we certainly aspire to replace this government. That is our role and it was for that that we were elected. All the more so as the Alignment is today the largest faction, from the aspect of representation of the voters in the last elections.

[Unidentified correspondent] The very fact that there is joy among those who wish to stop the withdrawal, can that....

[Peres] I do not now want...I am sure it does not...I am sure that Israel will keep its commitments. Mr Begin himself said that there are no interim governments [memshalot ma'avar] in Israel, that every government must play its role and what Israel guaranteed, in accordance with the Knesset decisions it will certainly fulfill.

BEGIN REPORTEDLY STILL FAVORING RESIGNATION

TA232115 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2040 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Report by political correspondent Gad Becker in front of the prime minister's Knesset office, where the Cabinet is now in session -- live]

[Text] The initial pieces of information arriving from behind the closed door, where the Cabinet is meeting in a special session here at the Knesset building, are that the prime minister opened the session by talking for approximately 30 minutes, from which it transpires that at least for now his position is clear and unequivocal: He is determined to go to the president and submit his resignation following the tie vote here at the Knesset on the no confidence motion. Still, this is not the final word. The session is still in progress and meanwhile the first speaker after the prime minister was his deputy, Minister Simha Ehrlich, who launched a campaign of pressure on the prime minister to change his opinion and not resign. His main argument for asking the prime minister to refrain from resigning is that the Cabinet did not score a vote of no confidence, which is why there is no reason to resign.

We know from talks and from brief statements made before the Cabinet resolution [as heard] that Deputy Prime Minister Ehrlich is by no means the only one maintaining this opinion and many other ministers -- including the defense minister, the education minister, minister Abu-Hatzera, Minister Corfu and probably also many more -- support the view that the Cabinet should not resign. To repeat, as the session began, the prime minister's opinion is that he should go to the president.

CABINET OVERRULES BEGIN ON RESIGNATION ISSUE

TA232128 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2120 GMT 23 Mar 82

[From a special television newsreel live from the Knesset building]

[Text] [Knesset correspondent Yoram Ronen] Right now the Cabinet session and the meeting of the coalition Knesset members ended. As reported, the decision is that the prime minister will not go to the president. This was passed by a majority of twelve votes against six, stating that the prime minister should not go to the president. This is not according to the prime minister's opinion. However, here is Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or:

[Na'or] As you said, the Cabinet -- together with representatives of the coalition executive, who also participated in the session -- decided about an hour ago to reject the proposal made by the prime minister stipulating that he should -- in accordance with Article 23 of the Basic Law on the government -- go to the president and submit to him a letter of resignation, which according to the law means that the Cabinet has resigned. The prime minister raised this proposal of his at the special session he summoned here this evening and this launched a debate in which the ministers, the deputy ministers and the representatives of the coalition executive participated. At the end of that session, the decision you have just mentioned was made.

[Television reporter Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] How would you explain the fact that this is one of those rare occasions in thich the prime minister's opinion was overruled by the majority of the Cabinet?

[Na'or] Things happen like this. Democracy means making a decision by a majority vote. In this vote the majority was not according to the prime minister's opinion.

[Ronen] Mr Na'or, would you be prepared to tell us what the prime minister's reasons for going to the president were?

[Na'or] The prime minister explained that in the situation that has been created now, when the coalition has such a blocking majority [rov hosem] that prevents a motion of no-confidence from being adopted, but which on the other hand allows for a situation that could give the opposition a blocking majority which could make it very difficult -- perhaps even torpedo -- the Cabinet's initiatives in the Knesset, well he thought he should -- if the Cabinet approves it -- go to the president and submit the resignation papers.

[Ahime'ir] What is the Cabinet's ability to function in such a case, if every time there is a tie? Will the government be able to carry out its resolutions?

[Na'or] This is a question which only time can answer. As I said before, the prime minister's view was different, but the majority's opinion in this debate was that despite the difficulty as it surfaced today it would be possible to carry on, particularly in view of the fact that the accumulation of votes to form the tie was coincidental. This is not a natural state of affairs and this is not a coalition that supports a certain position, but merely a chance combination of Knesset members that oppose a certain position. It is not necessary for this coincidence to repeat itself and in the opinion of the majority there are good chances that it would not repeat itself.

[Ahime'ir] If this phenomenon does repeat itself, do you estimate that then the prime minister's opinion will be accepted?

[Na'or] I do not know. If this phenomenon repeats itself, it is safe to assume that additional consultations will be held, in which case additional decisions will similarly be made.

The prime minister immediately at the opening of today's consultations said that his position is that he should draw the proper conclusion and submit the letter on the Cabinet's resignation to the president, but he added that he wished to consult his colleagues. He did and accepted the majority's view.

[Ronen] Mr Na'or, could you tell us who said what, which ministers voted in favor of the prime minister's position, and which voted against it?

[Na'or] I did not take down the names of those who voted in favor of it or against it, but the number is -- as you said earlier -- 12 against 6. In this vote, the Cabinet members and two Agudat Yisra'el representatives also participated, and Agudat Yisra'el has no Cabinet ministers but, according to its parliamentary power, had it sent ministers it would have had two ministerial portfolios -- which is why it was given two votes.

[Ronen] Mr Na'or, when did the prime minister learn that the Knesset vote would result in a tie?

[Na'or] I do not know.

[Ronen] What is the next stage? Will there be another Cabinet session tomorrow?

[Na'or] For the moment no Cabinet session has been scheduled nor is there an objective need for it. Tomorrow, more Knesset deliberations will be held and there will be more votes and I hope the Cabinet resolutions will be accepted by the Knesset.

[Ahime'ir] Has the Cabinet decided to apply sanctions against MK Druckman?

[Na'or] No.

[Ahime'ir] What happens with him, has he removed himself from the coalition?

[Na'or] According to the law, there are no sanctions against a Knesset member. The law allows the Cabinet to impose sanctions on a coalition party or on a Cabinet member, but not on a Knesset member who had announced that he is not a member of the coalition.

[Indistinct Question]

[Na'or] No, there is no implication on the government level or in regard to any formal steps whatever.

[Ronen] At this stage, I suggest we return the broadcast to the studio pretty soon. We have only obtained the list of ministers who had voted together with the prime minister, supporting him in favoring going to the president.

[At this point Na'or is heard in the background announcing that he will proceed to make the statement in English]

[Ronen continues] They are Prime Minister Begin, Finance Minister Aridor, Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, Justice Minister Moshe Nisim, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Minister Yitzhaw Berman. All in all, six ministers supported the opinion that the prime minister ought to go to the president and submit his resignation. The other 12 representatives -- ministers and Knesset members [of Agudat Yisra'el] supported the view that the prime minister should continue in his post and that the Cabinet should continue to function and the prime minister should not go to the president.

COALITION REPORTEDLY FAVORS EARLY ELECTIONS

TA232228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2215 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Report by anchorman 'Oded Ben-'Ami -- live]

[Text] Our party affairs correspondent, Amnon Nadav, has learned that the proposal that is gradually taking shape among the coalition factions is that the Knesset elections should be advanced and held simultaneously with the elections for the local councils in November. If the Cabinet cannot function because of an equal share of power between the coalition and the opposition, as there was tonight, it will advance the elections to November, as we said. If the Cabinet can continue to function, then the proposal is to advance the elections to next May -- and this view is shared by the prime minister as well -- and postpone the election to the local councils to that date, namely May 1983.

FURTHER DETAILS OF CABINET SESSION REPORTED

TA240630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Overnight the Knesset voted, the Cabinet voted and the government has not resigned. A 2-hour special session of the Cabinet followed the Knesset vote on the Labor Alignment's no confidence motion. When Hayim Druckman of the NRP and the two-man Telem faction joined the supporters of the no confidence motion a tie vote was assured: 58 to 58. Earlier Prime Minister Begin had pledged to resign if the result was a tie despite the fact that a tie defeats the motion formally. As soon as the votes were counted Begin stood up and announced the Cabinet was going into a special session in the Knesset building. There, by a vote of 12 to 6 Begin's proposal to resign was turned down. Political reporter, Alan Ben-'Ami was at the Knesset.

[Begin recording] The leading opponent against the government's resignation was the NRP's Dr Yosef Burg. Why should we give the Labor Party something they fail to achieve in the Knesset vote? He said, pointing out that the opposition party's motion of no confidence had not received a majority and that the government knew when it took office that its own slim majority would mean it would not have an easy life.

Most of the Cabinet members shared Dr Burg's opinion. The feeling of the majority was that a freak combination of circumstances had led to the tie vote in the Knesset and that such a situation was unlikely to occur again. For Mr Begin's Herut Party, only Minister of Finance Yoram Aridor supported the prime minister's proposal of resignation. Four other votes of support all came from the liberal party ministers in the government. They said they felt the government was facing a parliamentary future that was not viable, and this will only hinder the government's ability to carry out its policies.

Altogether, the Cabinet spent some 2 hours debating the resignation proposal with deputy ministers and two representatives from the Agudat Yisra'el party, a coalition member without ministerial representation, taking part in the unprecedented session. At the end of the prime minister's proposal was rejected: 12 votes to six.

Some political observers felt that Mr Begin was not necessarily unhappy with the result. Their impression was that when he had talked of resignation should the Knesset vote be a tie the prime minister had only said he would consider such a move in consultation with his government. The Knesset vote and the Cabinet session had given the coalition ministers and their parties the chance to take a long hard look at their political situation now and in the future. Having done that the overwhelming response of the government was to stay in power. [end recording]

KNESSET TO BEGIN 1-MONTH RECESS NEXT WEEK

TA240834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Next week will be the last work week of the Knesset before it goes on a 1-month vacation. Our correspondent notes that during the vacation it is impossible to propose no confidence in the government. The coalition hopes to last through next week so calm will prevail during the vacation which will last until the beginning of May. The Sinai evacuation will be completed during the vacation.

The coalition believes that following the evacuation and the resumption of the Knesset debates it will be possible to expand the coalition, coopt Telem, and in addition, Rabbi Druckman may renew his support of the government.

AGUDAT YISRA'EL TO SEEK OUSTER OF GOVERNMENT

TA241030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el will initiate the toppling of the government against the background of changing the clause of "who is a Jew" in the Law of Return if the coalition cannot function. MK Avraham Shapira told our correspondent Razi Barqay that the intention is to overthrow the government on the basis of religious issues and not political or security issues, so as to spare the government a negative image. MK Avraham Shapira noted he told the prime minister this as well. Agudat Yisra'el will bring to the Knesset a proposal to change the Law of Return if Rabbi Druckman has indeed moved over to the opposition's ranks.

ALIGNMENT TO ACTIVELY SEEK COALITION'S OUSTER

TA240728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said this morning that the Alignment from now on will take action in the Knesset to replace the government. In a talk with our party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav, Peres says that yesterday's vote proved that this government does not only lack policy but also lacks principles.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Whoever entertained any doubts found out yesterday that not only does this government not have a policy but that it also has no principles. The prime minister said that if the result of the no confidence vote would be a tie he would goto the president. From now on Knesset members will learn that the prime minister's remarks are lip service, part of the large-scale trickery in almost all walks of life in Israel. I am saying this with regret since I think Israel needs a policy, a government, words that carry weight and meaning. I think that we are facing important struggles and we will not keep quiet until we can restore Israel to itself and enlist the maximum of forces in the Knesset, by law and with honor, in order to obtain this objective.

[Nadav] Mr Peres, does the Alignment now intend to take action to replace the government or to advance the elections?

[Answer] We will first take action to replace the government.

[Question] Do you believe there are chances for this?

[Answer] Look, what happened yesterday does not contradict this possibility.

[Question] May this, in your opinion, occur in the coming days or in a few months?

[Answer] I would not like to predict dates. [end recording]

ALIGNMENT'S SHAHAL REACTS TO CABINET DECISION

TA240942 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Dan Margalit and Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Alignment faction chairman Moshe Shahal reacted last night to the Cabinet decision by saying that "not only has the government no credibility, it also has no honor." The Alignment's official reaction will be published this morning after its leadership meets.

Last night, after the vote in the Knesset plenum and during the Cabinet session, the Alignment refrained from any official reaction. MK Yitzhaq Rabin did not dismiss the possibility that Prime Minister Menahem Begin would take advantage of the new situation to hold up the continuation of the withdrawal. MK Ora Namir also expressed concern about the future of the peace agreement.

The Alignment faction received the vote with mixed feelings. Many Knesset members expressed satisfaction at the results of the vote, although they feared an extremist change in the Likud position, to the point of postponing the withdrawal until new general elections. At the same time, they did not dismiss the possibility that the Alignment would try its strength in creating an alternative government, even if only for a short time.

Sources from the Alignment faction pointed out, among other things, their faction's tactical gain in the form of moves made by the party's chairman, MK Shim'on Peres. The first move was made the day before yesterday, 22 March, when, in an attempt to "lull the coalition," he said at a news conference that he did not think that the no-confidence vote would lead to the government's downfall. The second move was made yesterday in the Knesset plenum in the speech by Mr Peres, who gave up making a controversial speech and did not refer at all to the question of the Sinai withdrawal in order to permit the three Tehiya members of join the Alignment's vote of no confidence.

ENERGY MINISTER FAVORS 'TRANSITIONAL' GOVERNMENT

TA240824 Jerusalem Domesatic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman was one of the ministers who supported the government's resignation since, in his opinion, a transitional government may function better than under the present circumstances, and will be free from implementing certain clauses of the coalition agreement.

[Begin recording] [Berman] I do not think it is a sound situation to have a government ruling without a majority. It was said that it would be worse if the country were to be run by a transitional government, especially in view of the challenges we are facing today. In my opinion, a tie government is not stronger, is not any better able to handle the problems we face than a transitional government. Therefore, I would prefer a transitional government. The present situation is not sound. If we did not have this situation, we would have freed ourselves from having to vote for many of the draft resolutions on the agenda today.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Religious ones?

[Answer] I would not like to elaborate but I am referring to draft resolutions we have to vote for in accord with the coalition agreements. In a transitional government I would not have to vote for them. [end recording]

BURG COMMENTS ON RESULT OF CABINET VOTE

TA240720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] After last night's Cabinet session, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami talked with Interior Minister Yosef Burg about the possibility this might cause new moves toward a national unity government.

[Begin recording] [Burg] The Labor Party is always in favor but I do not believe that today with a couple of the questions that are in the air that this will be actual. Perhaps when the vacation of the Knesset will begin, then we will see more about this.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you think this sort of situation, then, might continue: tied votes of no confidence or even a vote of no confidence in the government?

[Answer] When this government went to a coalition of 61 we all knew that it will not be an easy life. So with 61 it can be one more, one less. Perhaps after the situation will be clear and the national urgency will also become more clear, perhaps additional members will come to the coalition.

[Question] It was a member of your own party, the NRP, Rabbi Hayim Druckman, whose failure to vote with the government led to the situation tonight.

[Answer] We know this. You see we are all partners in the same feeling of trauma and pain but we are not partners in the decision what has to be done. The majority of the party believes that the price of peace, how painful it is, has to be paid because the price for four, five wars we already paid all the years.

[Question] As head of the NRP, do you think that any measures should be taken against Rabbi Druckman?

[Answer] I believe he will come back to the fold after the end of the month of April. [end recording]

NISIM INTERVIEWED ON KNESSET, CABINET VOTES

TA240809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Justice Minister Moshe Nisim was one of the six ministers who yesterday supported the prime minister's proposal to go to the president.

[Begin recording] [Nisim] A government should function when it can function, namely when it has a Knesset majority with the help of which it can pass its proposals. The government cannot act on serious matters -- such as passing a budget law -- when it requires the favors of this or another member who will not come to vote or who will abstain from voting.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Minister Nisim, have you for a moment thought that events in the Knesset today could be taken advantage of in order to stop the Sinai withdrawal?

[Answer] Whoever thought so is a political child. Those who thought that their vote today might lead to stopping the withdrawal were political babies since, even if this government would have fallen it would have continued to function. The prime minister and the government would have carried out our international commitments to the letter and in spirit as if this Knesset vote today had not taken place. [end recording]

MK'S HURVITZ, NE'EMAN, DRUCKMAN ON KNESSET VOTE

TA232109 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2028 GMT 23 Mar 82

[MK's Hurvitz, Ne'eman, Druckman interviewed by Re'udor Benziman following the 23 March Knesset vote on the no-confidence motions -- live]

[Text] [Benziman] Here is another reaction, this time by MK Yiga'el Hurvitz, who served in the past as a minister in the Likud government. He says he did not want to lend a hand to the government's irresponsible policy in the economic sphere. It is necessary to establish a national unity government.

[Hurvitz] Yes, I think a national unity government should be established and I have nonpersonal and nonpartisan considerations to believe this would be right. But the main point is that the real components of such a government should be the Likud and the Alignment. If MAPAM and Ometz [the dovish faction of the Alignment] wish to flee, that will be all for the better. At any rate, a national unity government should be established in anticipation of the emergency times ahead of us after 26 April, which will be a period of trial for us.

[Question] If the decision is to declare elections, what will Telem's future be?

[Answer] Look, right now this does not interest or concern me. If elections are announced, then there will be new elections. This is not one of my considerations.

[Benziman] And as for Tehiya, according to MK Yuval Ne'eman the vote this evening requires a stop to the withdrawal from the Sinai.

[Begin recording] [Ne'eman] If the prime minister said a month ago, when we submitted our motion of no confidence, that after all, the people had given him a mandate on the basis of the Camp David accords, well now he does not have that mandate. If he continues with the withdrawal today, he would be like Yosi Sarid, who volunteered to serve as a U.S. agent. If Begin goes on with this, he will similarly be doing a volunteer job for Egypt. However, today he no longer has the people's mandate to implement Camp David or to carry out this agreement.

[Question] Is that why you voted against the Cabinet?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] What do you intend to do the moment word is known of what the prime minister decides to do?

[Answer] We intend first of all to bring about a situation where it would not depend on his decision, but that really the fact would come out that the Cabinet has no mandate -- for instance if it fails to pass the budget resolution, or the one on the supplementary budget, and the like. This should be the next parliamentary job.

[Question] Regarding the possibility that elections would be declared, a possibility that has been mentioned in the Likud, what is Tehiya's position on this?

[Answer] We have said quite definitely that what we are proposing is to hold elections in which there will be no need to mention the subject itself. Namely, the elections would not be over sects [chakhchakhim] or countries of origin, as the prime minister and the Likud -- and to a certain extent the Alignment too -- did last time. This time the elections should really be over the national questions, of which the question of the withdrawal from the Sinai holds top place.

[Question] I understand that you, of course, demand that the withdrawal be put off until after those elections are held?

[Answer] Definately. The current Israeli Cabinet today does not have the mandate to carry out the withdrawal. [end recording]

[Benziman] These were three reactions, and now we have an interview with MK Hayim Druckman of the NRP who voted in favor of the no-confidence motion thus bringing about the tie vote as a result of which the Cabinet might resign.

Our correspondent, Gil'ad Mishori, talked to MK Druckman.

[Begin recording] [Question] Is there a chance that after the Cabinet makes its decision, you will be able to tell yourself that you were the one that led to the fall of Manahem Begin's Cabinet? Will you regard this as a good point?

[Answer] I repeat: I had no intention of either causing the Cabinet to fall or confirming it. My one purpose was only to prevent the disaster involved in uprooting settlements in Eretz Yisra'el and of uprooting an entire district of Eretz Yisra'el. If this is done through the downfall of the Cabinet -- fine.

[Question] Do you think the withdrawal will indeed be carried out following this evening's vote?

[Answer] I sincerely hope that the change that occurred this evening would lead the incumbent Cabinet -- if it continues to serve, and it will anyway even as a transition government if it decides to resign -- to an understanding that it must avoid undertaking this crucial step, that it no longer has the backing to do so.

[Question] But most Knesset members who voted with you against the Cabinet support the continuation of the withdrawal?

[Answer] Look, I repeat: I voted for the no-confidence motion only for this purpose, and I hope that as a result of the vote the Cabinet understands that it should avoid taking this step.

[Question] Is this a happy evening for the people of Israel?

[Answer] It depends what comes out of it. It definately depends on the result. The very fact itself is not a cause for a joyous evening. I am not happy that I caused the Cabinet to fall. I saw a lot of good in it in very many areas, including the one having to do with Eretz Yisra'el. I did this because I had no other choice. If the results really justify this, I hope so very much. [end recording]

BEGIN SAYS EARLY ELECTIONS UNAVOIDABLE

TA241313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The prime minister has declared that there is no alternative but to hold early elections, adding that the date for those elections is only a question of time. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan reports that this is what Mr Begin had told a group of reporters in the Knesset cafeteria. In his opinion the Alignment stands no chance of forming a government. He wished to have the following message transmitted to the Labor Party chairman: Tell Shim'on he can place his new coattails in mothballs. It helps keep clothes in good shape for a long time. In the prime minister's opinion the developments that will occur in the next 12 months will lead to early elections. In a state of affairs where there are 60 coalition members against 60 representatives of the opposition it is very difficult to pass laws. As for last night's events, he said he wanted to resign but his colleagues in the Cabinet prevented him from doing so. If he had not asked them for their opinion they would have been mad at him, said Begin.

BEGIN STAR OF 'COMIC THRILLER' IN KNESSET VOTE

TA241009 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 82 p 1

[Special front-page editorial: "Begin the Thriller"]

[Text] The Likud government has apparently adopted the method of "television entertainment" for the nation living in Zion. Even before it had completely recovered from Meridor's famous flash in the pan, last night the public was again riveted to radio and television, this time to watch a comic thriller film directed by and starring Prime Minister Menahem Begin. And this time the thriller's subject was not how to make something out of nothing, but how to make nothing out of something. That is, how the prime minister's certain resignation "evaporated" on the way (which would not take place) to the president.

During the last 24 hours, when it became clear that there might be a tie in the Knesset vote, the prime minister had announced through the usual channels (to the press and his friends) that if this was the result, he would submit his resignation to the president. Mr Begin may have been only trying to frighten Rabbi Druckman and his partners, but a prime minister's words and commitments have the nature of being taken seriously. Even more so since they come from a man who had emphasized that he is a man of honor. And, indeed, when the motion of no confidence fell and Mr Begin jumped up from his seat, demanding that the debate be stopped for the purpose of an urgent Cabinet session, it appeared that there was no longer any force that could stop him from fulfilling his commitment.

It could have been assumed that he had calculated in advance the risks of resignation and the possibility that the Alignment would succeed in forming a government by doubling the bribes to the religious parties. And if he appeared firm in his decision on television, it was possible to understand his justification that, even though the no-confidence motion did not pass, it was difficult to regard the tie as sufficient backing for a government in Israel these days.

However, the thriller presented last night had a double surprise: First, that he placed the decision about whether to go to the president to the Cabinet's vote, something that depends only on the wish of the prime minister and does not require the Cabinet's approval; second, that he accepted the "verdict of the majority" and retracted his threat.

We have already become accustomed to the prime minister's lack of inhibition in what he says, either in what he does say or in what he has to swallow. This time the prime minister surpassed himself in swallowing his own words.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN ENVOY AL-BAZ

TA231201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] President Mubarak's emissary, Usamah al-Baz, said this morning after a meeting with Menahem Begin that all issues now being discussed between Israel and Egypt would be resolved within a very short time. The talk between the Egyptian emissary and the prime minister lasted for approximately 2 hours. Usamah al-Baz delivered a cordial message from President Mubarak. Prime Minister Begin promised to send an answer in a few days. The Egyptian emissary will return to Cairo today.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian president has promised President Navon that there are no grounds for fears that peaceful relations between Isreal and Egypt as well as the friendship between the two countries would change after the withdrawal from Sinai has been concluded.

A message to this effect was delivered by the editor of the Cairo weekly OCTOBER, Anis Mansur, to President Navon. President Mubarak also promises in the message that any improvement in Egypt's relations with Arab countries would not come at the expense of Israel. He expressed hope that Arab states would be able to use Egypt's mediation in order to negotiate a peace agreement with Israel.

Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that Anis Mansur told President Navon he had met with President Mubarak the day before yesterday and he was quoting his statements precisely. President Navon described in the talk the hard feelings in Israel due to the evacuation of the Yamit District. He also showed his visitor a drawing by a settler from Moshav Ugda. The picture expresses the pain of the settlers over their uprooting. President Navon also sent back a personal message to his Egyptian counterpart.

Further Details

TA231747 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The Egyptian president's political adviser, Usamah al-Baz, today brought the prime minister a message from President Mubarak. After the meeting with Mr Begin, Al-Baz expressed his confidence that all problems between Israel and Egypt will be resolved in the very near future. Our political correspondent, Gad Becker, reports:

[Begin recording] [Becker] The message Husni Mubarak sent through his aide, Usamah al-Baz, is six pages long and deals once again with the problematic issues at hand: the negotiations on autonomy, the status of Jerusalem, the border demarcation. Mubarak again pledged to pursue friendly relations between Israel and Egypt and deepen them after the withdrawal is completed. He was careful to formulate his message in the most friendly manner, but there nevertheless is no real progress toward resolving the problems, and particularly with regard to the border demarcation.

On behalf of the president, Usamah al-Baz again suggested international arbitration to solve the dispute over the area of Tabah south of Elat. The prime minister clarified that Israel is not prepared, at least not at this stage, to accept arbitration. He repeated his well-known proposal that the negotiations on sovereignty over this territory continue, with the existing situation remaining -- with only minor changes -- for the time being.

Emerging from the meeting with the prime minister, Usamah al-Baz said Mr Begin was pleased with the ongoing dialogue and specially noted the friendly atmosphere. Al-Baz says -- and he claims this is what the prime minister said -- that the disputed issues will all be solved in the very near future.

[Al-Baz -- in English] And I was quite satisfied from the talks and exchange of messages that all outstanding issues will be solved in the immediate future.

[Becker] The next phase of the deliberations on the border demarcation for Tabah is scheduled to take place in about a week in Cairo in talks between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. So far -- as we said before -- no solution has yet been found. [end recording]

EGYPTIAN EDITOR DELIVERS MUBARAK MESSAGE TO NAVON

TA231738 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] In a message to the president, President Mubarak again promises that Egypt will adhere to the peace process even after the completion of the withdrawal.

The message was brought to President Navon by OCTOBER Editor-in-Chief Anis Mansur, who arrived in Israel together with the Egyptian president's political adviser, Usamah al-Baz. Our correspondent Tzvi Zerahya reports on the meeting between President Navon and Anis Mansur:

[Begin recording] [Zerahya] In the message delivered by Anis Mansur to the president, the Egyptian president expressed warm appreciation for President Navon and emphatically repeated Egypt's commitment to the peace process.

Mubarak's policy is fundamentally different from As-Sadat's and is based on stability and continuity, which is reason enough for there to be no need to fear the future of peace and friendly relations between Israel and Egypt. [sentence as heard]

As for relations with Arab countries, Mubarak emphasized that these ties will not affect relations with Israel and he offers the services of his country as mediator between the Arab world and Israel.

Anis Mansur met Mubarak 2 days ago when he was asked to deliver the message to President Navon.

[Mansur -- in English] I conveyed an oral message from President Mubarak to President Navon. You know, they are old friends and when President Navon was in Cairo he had a long talk with President Mubarak. [fading into superimposed Hebrew translation by Zerahya]

[Zerahya] This is what Mansur said, while declining a request to specify the details of the subjects discussed in the message.

President Navon mentioned to his guest the heavy price Israel is paying for peace, noting the gloomy feeling among the public over the evacuation. The visit by President Mubarak to Israel was also raised during the meeting, but no progress was made. President Navon even sent an oral message through Anis Mansur to President Mubarak. [end recording]

BEGIN: SINAI WITHDRAWAL WILL BE COMPLETED

TA240804 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will reply to the president of Egypt and guarantee that Israel will complete the Sinai withdrawal on time, despite the political crisis. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has promised the prime minister, in a message he sent via his political adviser, Dr Usamah al-Baz, that he is adhering to the peace process and that Egypt intends to deepen its relations with Israel in an attempt to incorporate other Arab countries in the peace process.

IDF CAPTURES TERRORIST SQUAD IN WESTERN GALILEE

TA241103 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1057 GMT 24 Mar 82

[News bulletin]

[Text] A report has just arrived in the newsroom: The IDF spokesman announces that a terrorist squad was captured this morning by an IDF patrol north of Kibbutz Hanita in the western Galilee. Our force suffered no casualties.

This morning at nearly 0800 [0600 GMT] an IDF patrol noticed a terrorist squad making its way toward Israeli territory. The patrol began chasing the squad and captured its members. The terrorists were found in possession of various equipment, Kalashnikovs and ammunition. As said, our force sustained no casualties.

SHARON COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN WEST BANK

TA220850 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2340 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Haifa, 21 Mar -- Appearing before Likud activists in Haifa tonight, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said that the feeling of the terrorist organizations that they are losing ground in Judaea and Samaria -- in the wake of signals that the local population is ready to declare openly that the PLO does not represent them -- has been the cause for increasing unrest in those areas. The minister stated that we are facing internal distress because of people who have made up their minds to commit political suicide through their identification with extremist circles on the Golan Heights and in Judaea and Samaria.

The defense minister noted that for the first time in 15 years the Arabs in Judaea and Samaria are standing up and openly and fearlessly declaring that the terrorist organizations -- the PLO -- are not the sole representatives of the Palestinian Arabs. The minister added that Israel is not looking for collaborators among them but it is willing to assist those openly standing up against Arab terror. Nevertheless, Sharon noted that the Alignment -- during the time of Shim'on Peres' term as defense minister in 1976 -- had foolishly brought the PLO to power in Judaea and Samaria through the elections held at that time.

According to the minister, hundreds of thousands of people are now expected to openly stand up in Judaea and Samaria and shake loose of the PLO which is not the sole representative of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. The terrorist organizations also see the serious danger inherent in these revelations, and the unrest in Judaea and Samaria stems from the feeling of the terrorist organizations that they are losing ground. On the other hand, the minister continued, Israel's main problem on the Golan Heights and in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is not the behavior of the Arab population but "our problem is the Jews." The minister pointed out that Alignment Knesset members Yosi Sarid, Shulamit Aloni and Shevah Weiss as well as some MAPAM Knesset members saw fit to go to the Golan Heights and strengthen the hands of the extremists among the Druze.

The minister said that at the same time he had never heard Alignment members raising their voices about those people standing up against a religious boycott, or alternately, about people withstanding murder threats. "On these issues -- on the fact that Druze who identify with the State of Israel are not being protected -- I have never seen the Alignment submitting motions of no confidence in the government."

The minister stated that Israel is determined no longer to tolerate the situation prevailing prior to the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights "and we will never go back on that road." The Alignment and MAPAM delegations that visited the Golan Heights have caused unnecessary suffering to the Druze population because they have fostered false hopes in the hearts of the Druze living on the Golan Heights. These activities harm the local population and the State of Israel, the minister said. He added that the government's policy would be to adopt a firm hand against those violating order and to grant privileges to the quiet population.

At the beginning of his remarks, the defense minister referred to our broken spirit and the sad atmosphere pervading us in light of our apprehension about what will happen after April 26, the date scheduled for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai. The defense minister said there is no room for apprehension and that we should keep cool and wait and see what will happen. According to him, the situation that exists today will prevail after the scheduled date for the withdrawal and one should not expect a substantive change in Egypt's position after that date. The minister pointed out that in contacts with Egypt we have examined, checked and probed all the possible ways so that that day passes smoothly and that the relationship between the two countries continues to develop.

The minister assessed that the relationship between Israel and Egypt will most likely be given momentum after 26 April.

Therefore, the anxiety afflicting many people is unnecessary and exaggerated; there are people who believe our hands would be tied, as it were, after that date -- the minister added.

Sharon pointed out that peace was very important to Israel but it was in no way less important to Egypt. According to him, as a result of the peace treaty, Egypt enjoys many privileges and it is hard to envision Egypt being able to get out of its present situation without the massive aid it has been receiving in the wake of the peace treaty.

"Israel is not leaving the arena and it is not disarming itself. Under no circumstances will Israel agree to any violation of the peace treaty with Egypt," the defense minister stated, adding that we have made this explicitly clear to the Egyptians. Israel would not agree to any change in the status in the Sinai. The peace treaty stipulated that there will be a 150 km-demilitarized zone in the Sinai and that the Egyptians will be allowed to maintain limited forces near the Suez Canal on a permanent basis. Indeed, Egypt has undertaken a commitment and "if in contradiction with the peace treaty the status in the Sinai were violated through the introduction of Egyptian forces, we would go into the Sinai within 24 hours," Sharon stated.

Referring to the autonomy agreement, the defense minister said that Israel had wanted to reach an agreement on autonomy before the withdrawal and that had also been the wish of the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. However, President Mubarak believes otherwise. In any case, the minister said, it is not Israel that is facing a difficult situation. We [word illegible] in Judaea and Samaria; we are building houses, laying electricity, water and telephone lines and establishing an industrial infrastructure -- and this process has in no way stopped. If the Egyptians wish to hold up the autonomy process, let them do so; we are in no rush. We are adopting every necessary measure and this is not our problem, it is Egypt's problem. If claims are raised against Egypt for receiving its share of the peace treaty and not seeing to the Palestinian Arabs -- that claim will be directed at Egypt. This is not our problem but Egypt's problem, Sharon stated.

Defense Minister Sharon noted that if the United States and Egypt changed the status of the Camp David accords, Israel would also no longer be bound to that agreement, and not out of a desire to abandon it or to shirk the autonomy plan -- after all Israel has been pressing all the time for concluding the debates on autonomy, Sharon added.

Referring to the demarcation of the border with Egypt and to President Mubarak's refusal to come to Jerusalem, the defense minister stated that Israel had reached the limit of its concessions and it was the one which made all the gestures and Israel's national honor will no longer be tarnished in the least. We have made plain -- the minister said -- that the autonomy talks would be held in Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington and we are in no way willing to put up with some kind of boycott of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

Referring to the demarcation of the border, the defense minister said that Israel should under no circumstances reach a situation whereby it withdraws from the border and 1 day later finds itself in conflict with Egypt. The defense minister pointed out that the Egyptian delegation was explicitly told that as far as Israel was concerned it preferred to withstand whatever international pressures [if we remain] on the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line rather than near Elat. Therefore, any arrangement regarding the border demarcation and the dispute over 15 other points must be reached with the agreement of both parties.

He noted that there were no grounds to believe that the Egyptian surveyors in the field should be trusted more than the Israeli ones. The problem is not the hotel in Tabah, since if it were located on Egyptian territory it would be handed over to them just as they were handed other hotels and property. The defense minister said that on the issue of border demarcation we should stand firm and not give up. We are currently undergoing a domestic test but we should not make light of the difficulties also afflicting Egypt. At this time we must stand firmly and we must not tolerate a violation of Israel's honor.

Concluding his remarks, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon expressed his evaluation that the normalization process would be accelerated after 26 April. The rally was attended by Deputy Knesset Speaker Me'ir Kohen, Knesset members Prof Yosef Rom and Amnon Lynn, the prime minister's adviser, Re'uven Hecht, representatives of all the Likud factions in Haifa and Druze dignitaries.

W. BANK RESIDENT KILLED, TWO INJURED NEAR RAMALLAH

TA221515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] A resident of the Dayr 'Ammar village near Ramallah was killed, and two residents were wounded by fire from IDF troops during the dispersal of a demonstration this afternoon. Military sources told our correspondent the soldiers were summoned to disperse the demonstration and in the course of the dispersal, they fired tear gas grenades. Later they fired in the air, but the demonstrators continued attacking them and the soldiers aimed shots at the demonstrators' legs. The man killed is a refugee camp resident, a 19-year-old youth, Muhamma Hamad, and two others were injured.

SHARON BRIEFS KNESSET COMMITTEE ON WEST BANK

TA231155 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] There were harsh verbal exchanges in the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee at noon between Defense Minister Sharon and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Peres protested to the defense minister about remarks made by the latter in Haifa about the role played by Jews in the tension in Judaea and Samaria. Peres told Sharon that he was in fact accusing parts of the Israeli public -- those who do not accept Sharon's policy -- of treason. The Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee today discussed the situation in the territories with the participation of Defense Minister Sharon, the head of the Civilian Administration, Professor Milson and the commander of the Central Command, Maj Gen Ori Or.

AL-BIRAH, RAMALLAH MAYORS ISSUE CONDEMNATION

TA231446 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1420 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Ramallah, 23 Mar -- Dismissed Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim Sulayman at-Tawil and his colleague, Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf today issued an unprecedentedly sharp condemnation announcement, in which they said that "the Israeli administration is undertaking murderous measures, imposing mass detentions, kidnappings and torture. We therefore call on all the people of conscience throughout the world to come to the aid of the Palestinian bearing the barbaric yoke of conquest."

DISTURBANCES IN RAFAH REPORTED, STRIKE BEGINS

TA231224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Youths in Rafah continue to set tires on fire and block roads. An IDF patrol is trying to calm tempers and disperse the demonstrators. During the dispersal an IDF soldier was hit in the neck by a stone. The Rafah municipality this morning announced a general 3-day strike.

LIBYA

JANA CRITICIZES SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY, POLICY

Details Backing of U.S.

LD240054 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 23 Mar (JANA) -- The Saudi reactionary ruling family is totally subservient to U.S. policies. An expert in finance and economy summed up the essential Saudi backing for the U.S. as follows:

1. Financing of U.S. Government budgets.
2. Backing of U.S. dollar.
3. Financing of U.S. banks and companies and extending investment fields for their benefit.
4. Backing scientific and technological progress in the U.S.A. and promotion of U.S. economic and military capacities of invasion.
5. Depriving Saudi Arabia of the use of these assets unless America agrees to it only following tedious and severe conditions. [as received]

The Saudi government oil company "Petromine" financed some U.S. companies to establish a refinery in Houston, Texas. These were Pioneer National Gas, Oklahoma National Gas and Philips Petroleum.

It has become obvious to conclude that the Saudi policies based on oil squandering has led to a fantastic accumulation of money which Saudi Arabia cannot utilize. The Saudi Oil Minister Zaki Yamani admitted that the kingdom is making stupendous amounts of money from its oil and that these revenues surpass its [word indistinct].

(?Another) discovery of oil reserves in Saudi Arabia capable of supplying Western countries and U.S. markets needs for oil, together with the enormous profits reaped by all their monopolies have directed U.S. policies towards such projects as building enough American military bases to protect what it calls its interests in the region.

Thus America built Adahran Airbase close to the most important oil source in the peninsula and all the rest [words indistinct] wells monopolised by European and U.S. companies throughout the Arab Gulf. In Dammam, another sea base was built to protect imperialist interests. A military land route connecting both bases was also set up. About a hundred kilometres from the Jordan border. They also built Tabuk base directly supervised by U.S. experts. Khamis Mashit base, 100 km away from the Yemeni border is equipped with Hawk missiles and the most sophisticated military equipment in the Middle East area and run by more than 900 U.S. officers. Jiddah base has the most sophisticated de-coding electronic equipment supervised by American military experts. 'Al-Batin' base is part of a network which covers various parts of the Arab [word indistinct] was set up to protect the Saudi regime and protects all U.S. oil monopolies, continuing thus the domination and exploitation of oil fields and threatening all regimes which might oppose oil monopolies in the region.

Criticizes 'Wicked Line'

LD231902 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Mar (JANA) -- JANA's political editor has made the following comment: "The Saudi ruling family is following a blatant path of complicity in assassinating nationalist hopes and aspirations. The agent cliques in Riyadh are spending huge sums of money in feeding imperialism and Zionism and enabling them to persecute the Arab nation. These rulers are bent on entrenching this wicked line and sheltering under its umbrella so as to repress the voice of freedom and deal a blow to the popular movements aspiring to salvation from despotism. These rulers deploy their reactionary stands and policies to thwart the Arab masses' struggle and steadfastness and to sow discord and division within the Arab nation.

The Saudi regime and its agents in Riyadh have blatantly repressed the masses of the Arab Peninsula and denied them freedom of expression.

Amidst unparalleled repression and terror campaigns, the peninsula people is struggling against the regime, its agents, and corrupt elements so as to realise freedom and salvation. In the Al Hasa prison, the cries of pain of the oppressed are being [word indistinct] in the Ad Dammam prison, freemen are being flogged. In the prison cells of Karadib, the blood of the dispossessed is being shed. The peninsula people is plagued with a clique of treasonous rulers who are spreading evil, a group of princes whose quest for pleasure and profits has blinded them to the people's suffering, a clique of agents and satans who tied their future to their [words indistinct]. They do not refrain from evil or blasphemy. They spread terror in Al Qatif and Najd, and sever heads in Jidda. Then they wash their hands, hide underneath their cloaks, seek pleasure in the nightclubs of Paris and London, get drunk in Arizona's bars, gamble in Las Vegas and Monte Carlo, and relieve their complexes in Nice and Hawaii. They are crude and arrogant beasts who know no mercy. They are professional executioners who wash their hands in blood. Despite this, in Riyadh they talk of virtue, in Mecca they boast of guarding Islam, in Jidda they hoist the [words indistinct] banners of [words indistinct] they raise the slogans of resisting Zionism. They actually [words indistinct] sell [words indistinct] pass feeble judgments and spread falsehood through the societies of [words indistinct] from good and ordering evil. They are truly a clique laden with obscenity and baseness, a group steeped in subservience, a tribal column whose disregard for the Islamic religion's true values has been exposed and terrorists who usurped the poor's livelihood."

Scores Marcos' Visit

LD221918 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines presently is visiting the Saudi family for talks while his forces continue to slaughter Muslims in the south of the Philippines and to murder the women and children of these Muslims.

JANA political editor exposes the truth about Marcos' current visit with the Saudi rulers: The Saudi rulers have sold out the Philippine Muslims and have abandoned all commitment to the struggle these Muslims have been waging against the agent regime. They are doing so in line with their policy and in complete subservience to the U.S. administration.

Marcos has come to meet with the Saudi rulers to thank them for helping to complete the deal providing his authorities with a favorable climate to commit further crimes and massacres against the Muslims fighting for freedom in the southern Philippines.

To enable Marcos' forces to inflict harm on and to murder the Muslims of the Philippines, the Saudis have been supporting Marcos with money and oil, giving him a license to kill Muslims without mercy.

Thus, these traitorous rulers have unmasked the truth about themselves and have shown their true face as enemies of Islam and the cause of Islam. All the talk about their being custodians of Islam is no more than falsehoods and lies.

AL-QADHDHAFI VISITS MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

LD211630 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Mar (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) -- As part of the constant process of agitation for the formation of revolutionary committees, the revolution's leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi met during the last two days with the masses of the Souf al-Jin municipality people's congress.

MAURITANIA

HAYDALA RETURNS FROM TALKS IN PARIS 23 MAR

LD232208 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala returned to Nouakchott at noon today from Paris at the end of his working visit to France, during which he had talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

He was welcomed at the airport by the prime minister and minister of national defense, Col Maaquia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, who assumed the duties of head of state during his absence. He also was welcomed by the governor of Nouakchott and members of the military and civilian departments of the presidential office.

At the VIP hall, Colonal Haydala said his visit to France enabled him to review with the French president all current issues, particularly those of interest to Arabs and Africans. Discussions centered on the situation in our area, he said.

The head of state said his talks with the French president provided him with an opportunity to review bilateral cooperation. He added: I assure you that I have returned from France fully satisfied with the results of the talks I had with the French president. I also have returned confident that Mauritanian-French relations will grow stronger during the coming days, he added.

Colonel Haydala said: On this occasion, I want to express my utmost thanks to French President Mitterrand and his government for the great welcome and hospitality showed me and my delegation during our stay in Paris.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA CITES MOI APPROVAL FOR SUMMIT ON SAHARA

LD231358 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The current president of the OAU, the president of Kenya, Arap Moi, approved the Moroccan proposal to hold an extraordinary OAU summit to discuss the farce of the autocratic decision by the OAU secretary general to allow the so-called Saharan Republic to take part in the work of the African ministerial council held in Addis Ababa. M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, who announced the news to the press this morning following his meeting in Nairobi with President arap Moi, said that in the next few days the president will make public the measures he intends to take to convene this extraordinary summit.

He said the king confirmed in his message that Morocco will do all it can to prevent the breakup of the OAU but, at the same time, it will strive to prevent illegitimate actions. The minister of state said President Moi showed great interest in the royal message and recalled that he faced a fait accompli when the Polisario delegation was allowed to enter the hall where the African ministerial council was meeting in Addis Ababa. The minister added that the number of states opposing the admission of the so-called Saharan Republic greatly exceeded the number of those states which withdrew from the meetings because in addition to the latter, which number 19, other countries expressed their condemnation -- among them Nigeria and Sierra Lione, two members of the followup committee entrusted to deal with the problem. He said Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Sudan are among the countries supporting the Moroccan proposal.

He explained that the royal message delivered this morning to President Moi expressed Morocco's conviction that an extraordinary African summit would allow discussion of the problem facing the OAU.

KING SENDS EXPLANATORY MESSAGE TO OAU MEMBERS

LD231826 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this morning entrusted Dey Ould Sidi Baba, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Abbas El Fassi, minister of traditional industries and social affairs; Abdelwahad Belkeziz, minister of information, youth and sports; Mohamed El Ansar, minister of posts; Abdelhaz Tazi, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Ahmed Osman, leader of the National Reassembly of Independents, with the task of conveying a verbal message from his majesty to the leaders of OAU member states. The message is an explanation of Morocco's position toward last month's OAU ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa. The message is also an explanation of Morocco's position toward the issues raised at the meeting and the measures which must be taken to prevent the crumbling of the OAU.

EDUCATION MINISTER MEETS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION

LD270006 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Education Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki this morning received at the ministry Georgiy Veselov, education minister of the RSFSR and chairman of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Society. During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation and friendship.

In this respect, the two sides stressed the need to focus this cooperation, in the coming stage, on staff training. Especially important is the training of technical school teachers, the twinning of educational establishments, the exchange of know-how and educational and cultural documents.

On this occasion, the Soviet minister told his Moroccan counterpart that the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Society will allocate additional scholarships for our students who want to continue their education in the Soviet Union. The ministers also discussed setting up a Russian language department in Morocco with a view to preparing students continuing their studies in the the Soviet Union.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Fassi, chairman of the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Society in Morocco; Abdelfattah Bouzdubaa, secretary general of primary and secondary education and members of the delegation accompanying the Soviet minister.

GAMBIA

PRESIDENTIAL, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS SET FOR MAY

AB201233 Paris AFP in French 1037 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Banjul, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Presidential and legislative elections will be held separately -- for the first time -- in Gambia on 4 and 5 May, it was announced officially.

In fact, in compliance with an amendment to the Gambian Constitution, the president henceforth will be elected by universal suffrage. Formerly, the leader of the winning party at the legislative elections was designated.

In the legislative elections, Gambians will elect 35 parliamentarians for the eight constituences.

The Interior Ministry announced on Saturday that in view of the state of emergency and the curfew (imposed since the coup attempt last 30 July), political parties must seek police permission before holding any public meeting. The ministry pointed out that the measure is aimed at ensuring peace and order during the electoral campaign.

GHANA

RAWLINGS EXPLAINS IDEOLOGY, FOREIGN POLICY

PM230935 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 13 Mar 82 p 10

[Abridged version of interview granted to Mozambique press agency journalist Fernando Lima by Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What social system do you hope Ghana will follow in the future?

Jerry Rawlings: People speak of capitalism as a means of development and of communism or socialism as another means. At least, both move in that direction, albeit by different paths. They have something in common, specifically a certain degree of social integrity, a certain national character, an appeal to responsibility -- everything lacking in most of the Third World. But without that, capitalism or socialism or whatever does not work. What capitalism and socialism have in common is that under both systems people will certainly fight and die for their country. To those wanting to speak of freedom in the West, I would even say: Yes, they will probably allow them the freedom to be responsible.

Question: But sometimes they don't want to grant that freedom....

Jerry Rawlings: Oh, they will not grant it to us. But to themselves, they will grant a certain degree of freedom to serve their so-called development. To those wanting to speak of the East bloc, even if you tell me that they don't have the freedom to be responsible, I would say: Certainly, but they are under the control of patriotic nationalists. But in Third World countries, in most of Africa, in my country, we are not allowed the freedom to be responsible or to be under the control of patriotic nationalists. We have the worst of all worlds: to make it possible for exploitation to survive. Because, if we allow a man the freedom to be responsible, he will become independent. But when my colleagues speak of socialism as a path to be followed by us, do you know what I tell them? "Beware of labels. The Western countries have had every opportunity to poison people's minds. The best thing you can do is to resolve the people's problems in practice. Afterward you can tell them that what you have done is socialism. But, in view of prejudices, you would do better to lay aside labels at the outset."

Question: Let's now talk about Ghana's foreign policy. The Western press has talked a great deal about your relationship with Libya...According to reports in a certain section of the press, everybody should now realize that Libya is expansionist. The Americans even say there is a "new imperialism" in Africa....

Jerry Rawlings: That is all talk.

Question: So what role can Libya play as regards economic assistance, for instance?

Jerry Rawlings: We will accept any assistance that does not deprive us of real independence, any that complements and strengthens our own efforts. In the final analysis, any really independent African country will really complement the aspirations of all African peoples. By offering to assist us, Libya is simply doing its duty not only to Africa but also to itself.

Question: Is there an historical precedent in relations between Libya and Ghana? Why Libya and not any other country? How will you develop those relations?

Jerry Rawlings: It is a natural relationship; a relationship which is to be expected. There are one or two past links. Before the overthrow of the monarchy, Nkrumah had some contacts with Libyans who were attempting to change things. Thus Ghana had contacts with people there before King Idriss was ousted, before Al-Qadhdhafi came on the scene. Just the simple fact of hungering for independence -- real independence -- in a Balkanized, repressive African situation means becoming natural allies and enemies of reactionary forces. And it is not just a matter of Libya. We can have a natural relationship with any progressive African country.

Question: Last, how do you view relations with the rest of Africa and with the Nonaligned Movement? And how would you like to see relations between Ghana and Mozambique develop?

Jerry Rawlings: Obviously, we hope to have very close relations with Mozambique because we regard it as a progressive country, a revolutionary country building a socialist society. We in Ghana are just beginning and, of course, we will learn from Mozambique's experience and hope to develop very close ties between our two countries. In more general foreign policy issues, Ghana will continue to take part, as it has always done, in the OAU, the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement and will do so in the manner and within the tradition of our first president, Kwame Nkrumah. That is how I would summarize Ghana's external relations.

Calls for Sacrifices

AB241030 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The Chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has called on Ghanaians to make sacrifices without asking for promises, immediate rewards or privileges. He said the reward of hard work and sacrifices lies in the long-term benefits that would accrue to the nation.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings was speaking at the Gonda Barracks in Accra last night when the national football team, the Black Stars, called to present to him the cup they won at the 13th Africa Cup of Nations competition in Libya. He observed that the Black Stars won the match because as he put it, the revolutionary spirit was at stake.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings congratulated the players for winning against what he called a solid revolutionary side like Libya. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings has directed that the cup should be placed at a vantage point in the city for the people, on whose behalf the team fought, to see. From there it should be removed to the regional capitals for those in the regions also to have a look at it.

The secretary for youth and sports, Mr Zaya Yeebo, said the victory of the Black Stars should spur on Ghanaians to other victories. The country has battled to win against hunger, poverty, maladministration and corruption. Mr Zaya Yeebo announced that "a sports for all" policy would soon be published. This is aimed at getting people of all ages involved in all kinds of sports, wherever they live.

Welcoming the Black Stars at the Kotoka airport, a member of the PNDC, Sgt Alolga Akata-Poree, said the performance of the Stars is a victory for the revolution.

Among the thousands of people at the airport to meet the Stars were the Ga Mantse [chief of the Accra Traditional Area], Nii Amugi; the Greater Accra regional secretary, Mr Atukwei Okai; and the secretary of information, Mr Ato Austin.

DEGRAFT JOHNSON TESTIFIES BEFORE COMMITTEE

AB181012 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] The former vice president, Dr deGraft Johnson, has said he did not know that several innocent soldiers were kept in condemned cells in Nsawam prisons for long periods and then summarily dismissed. He was, however, aware that soldiers were tried in the prison yard and sentenced.

Giving evidence before the National Investigations Committee today, Dr deGraft Johnson said there was nothing wrong with trying soldiers at the Nsawam prisons since they were given facilities for legal counsel. But, he said, it will not be proper to try him at the prison yard.

The former vice president told the committee that contrary to sections of the suspended constitution, the deposed People's National Party [PNP] administration did not establish the National Security Council. Everything done in the name of security was therefore unconstitutional. Dr deGraft Johnson could not explain why it took the Limann administration too long a time to settle down into office.

He said even though there was economic crisis as well as hunger and suffering in the country, he had time to think about distribution of tractors, essential commodities and other appendant matters, admitting that this made cheap the sacred office of vice president of the republic. The former vice president told the committee that the ousted regime was conscious of the fact that the economy was deteriorating daily, but this was attributed to the continuously dwindling capacity of the country to earn foreign exchange.

The government identified the major production areas to be in cocoa, diamonds, timber and gold and therefore undertook strategies generally aimed at improving the production levels in these areas. In the case of cocoa, for example, the government considered that the best step to rehabilitate the industry and thus provide a permanent solution to the deteriorating cocoa industry was to prepare a cocoa bill. The preparation of the bill took 2 years, an unusually long period of time. Dr deGraft Johnson regretted, however, that the members of the interim management committee established to oversee the affairs of the industry claimed that because they were [as heard] merely an interim committee, it could not take fundamental decisions affecting the industry. The inaction and the attendant hardships on cocoa farmers resulted in the smuggling of large quantities of cocoa across the borders. But the former vice president denied being aware that in the Akim-Oda District alone, a total of 100,000 bags of cocoa had been locked up since 1978. He expressed surprise at that.

Dr deGraft Johnson conceded that one major problem area in the economy was road construction and even though the PNP administration had some form of a program to rehabilitate existing roads and to construct new ones, they needed financial assistance from abroad to carry out the program.

He told the committee that even though there were plenty of bitumen and gravel around, the government could not mobilize the people to undertake even elementary forms of road rehabilitation like pothole filling exercises. Dr deGraft Johnson also admitted that even though the subject of national development had to be given top priority attention, the PNP administration was so slow to act that the national development plan eventually produced went to Parliament for debate after more than 2 years of coming into power.

On the extensively flamboyant and luxurious program designed for the independence silver jubilee celebrations, Dr deGraft Johnson said the PNP had the belief that a sophisticated celebration involving more than 50 million cedis will psychologically strengthen life and national feeling among the people generally for national development. He however admitted that the huge amount to be spent on souvenirs could have been better used in ordering drugs for the hospitals.

The former vice president said but for the 4 June revolution, the PNP would not have been elected into power. He denied that there was any calculated and vicious campaign by the PNP either to discredit the gains of the 4 June revolution or to neutralize and physically eliminate Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

Dr deGraft Johnson also denied a suggestion that the government made certain editorial appointments at some of the state-owned newspapers as a means of making sure that the press would guard against criticisms of the government and be used as a weapon to carry out a vicious propaganda campaign against so-called enemies of the PNP. He again denied that the PNP used imports license allocations as a means of holding rebellious hostile newspapers like the Palaver in line.

Says PNP Lacked Discipline

AB181935 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The former vice president, Dr deGraft Johnson, today admitted before the National Investigations Committee that the People's National Party, PNP, administration lacked the necessary machinery to effectively discipline agents and aids of the government who misbehaved themselves. Continuing his evidence before the committee, the former vice president said even though he was the deputy leader and a member of the Central Committee of the proscribed PNP, he had nothing to do with financial matters of the party. Dr deGraft Johnson said the organization of the party was in the hands of people he described as Nana Okutwer Bekoe, Mr Krobo Edusei and others. He said for the 2 years the party was in power, these people did not report anything about financial matters to him. He did not even know about the monies allegedly collected from Dr Chiavilli on behalf of the party until, as he put it, Mr Adai-Amoako blew the whole thing. He agreed with the committee that these things were highly improper and irregular.

On allegations of bribery involving Mr Frempong-Manso, his former special assistant, Dr deGraft Johnson explained that even though he had information that his special assistant was using his name to collect bribes with promises of having them be issued with import licenses, he did not take the trouble of having the matter investigated. He said even though it was a very serious matter, all that he did was to merely confront Mr Frempong-Manso, who said it was not true. He concluded that it was enough. Dr deGraft Johnson, however, denied a suggestion that he did not take any drastic action against Mr Frempong-Manso because of party brotherhood. He added that it was because of the allegation that he was shifted from his office.

Describing himself as a socialist, the former vice president explained that socialist systems derived their origin from capitalism, hence, the PNP government was determined to erect firm capitalist institutions as a means of guaranteeing for the future a socialist revolution. He told the committee that he was the chairman of the grand opening ceremony of Fort Alexander, a symbol of capitalism, which is owned by Mr Alex Adjai, ex-member of Parliament for Asamankese.

ATIM INAUGURATES FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMITTEE

AB231753 Accra International Service in English 1630 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been asked to play the kind of diplomacy which will promote the revolution and the image of Ghana. The ministry should therefore abandon the (?archaic) diplomacy it has been practising since 1966. This was stated by a member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] Mr Chris Atim, at the inauguration of a branch of a workers defense committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Accra today. He said events of 31 December were meant to bring Ghana to its rightful place within the community of nations. This task falls on the ministry to ensure that the desired goal is achieved.

In this connection, Mr Atim gave the assurance that the PNDC has no intention to subvert the governments of Ghana's neighboring countries. He said the revolution that Ghanaians have embarked upon is internal and the council does not intend to export it to any other country. He disclosed that some Ghanaian diplomats are subverting the revolution. He threrefore called on the branch of the workers defense committee to expose all such saboteurs. Mr Atim called on Alhaji Patty, the former high commissioner to Nigeria, who is reported to have asked for political asylum in Nigeria, to feel free to come home whenever he chooses since nobody is interested in him.

Another member of the council, the Rev Dr Damuah, who chaired the function, said the events of 31 December were ordained by God to bring relief to Ghanaians. He called on the people to shake off their pathetic wait-and-see attitude and actively involve themselves in the revolution. The secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, urged the members of the local defense committee to live examplary lives and avoid intimidation. He reminded them that the revolution has come to replace the vices of the past and it is the people's defense committee [PDC] that is expected to be the vehicle through which the goals of the revolution will be realized.

The editor of the DAILY GRAPHIC, Mr Kodjo Yanka, who was the guest speaker, said the revolution demands foreign servicemen to defend the cause Ghanaians have embarked upon. The chairman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' PDC, Mr Yao Esso, called for the streamlining of task and the reduction of some of the benefits enjoyed by heads of missions and the other personnel as a means of reducing the cost of maintaining Ghana's missions abroad.

PNDC: GHANAIANS NOT PREVENTED FROM LEAVING

AB191735 Accra International Service in English 1630 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Ghana's ruling Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has stressed that there is no truth in rumors being spread by certain unscrupulous persons and detractors of the revolution that the council will soon stop Ghanaians from traveling outside the country. Because of these rumors, many citizens are leaving the country while others have been advising their relations outside the country not to return home now.

A statement from the office of the PNDC made it clear that it has never been and it is not the intention of the council to prevent Ghanaians from traveling outside Ghana if they so desire. The statement said the PNDC finds it very ridiculous and contradictory to take such lies [words indistinct] Ghanaians can rebuild it. If the people choose to leave the country for someone else to build it for them, it would be most unfortunate.

MALI

MINISTERS HOLD TALKS WITH PRC OFFICIALS 20 MAR

AB211055 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] In conformity with decisions made during the visit to the PRC in August 1981 by Gen Moussa Traore, the secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Malian Republic, a meeting of the two countries' parties was held this morning at the Agriculture Ministry.

The Chinese side was headed by His Excellency Du Yi, PRC ambassador to Mali, and included members of the economic and commercial council as well as other Chinese experts. The Malian side was headed by Their Excellencies N'fagnanama Kone and Alioune Blondin Beye, respectively the ministers of agriculture and foreign affairs and international cooperation, who were accompanied by their colleagues, as well as His Excellency Sekou Almany Koreissi, Mali's ambassador to the PRC.

After profoundly reviewing the structure of Sino-Malian cooperation, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the completion of the consolidation work on the Markala dam project and the dredging of the supply canal. They also agreed to take practical steps to restore industrial enterprises such as the Dougabougou and Siribala sugar works, the Krouma and Debougou rice mills and the Farako tea plantation. The talks, which were cordial, also enabled the two governments to affirm their readiness to strengthen their cooperation. At this stage, the two delegations expressed the desire to hold periodic meetings.

NIGERIA

ECONOMIC COUNCIL 'UNABLE' TO ASK SALARY INCREASE

AB231055 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The National Economic Council says it is unable to recommend to the governments in the federation an increase of 300 naira per annum across the board now. It, however, suggested that the workers concerned should be assured that as soon as the revenue situation in the country improved, necessary adjustments would be made in their salaries. These were contained in a communique at the end of its 1-day meeting in Lagos yesterday.

The National Council on establishments had recommended that there should be an increase of 300 naira per annum across the board for all employees in the civil service before the coming into force of the national minimum wage act of 1981. After reviewing the country's economic situation, the council noted that even without the 300 naira, many state governments found it difficult to pay monthly salaries regularly, while many firms in the private sector had retrenched thousands of their workers. It said the implementation of the recommendation would worsen the financial condition of the governments and might lead to mass retrenchment of workers in the public services of the federation.

The meeting was presided over by the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, and addressed by President Shehu Shagari.

MOZAMBIQUE

FRELIMO, SED DELEGATIONS BEGIN TALKS 22 MAR

EA230230 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Frelimo and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] today began talks in Maputo aimed at exchanging opinions on various problems of mutual interest. Joaquim Chissano, Central Committee secretary for external relations, is leading the Frelimo delegation. The SED delegation is headed by (Friedeli Trappen) deputy head of the Central Committee Department of International Relations.

Speaking during the opening session of the talks, the heads of the delegations emphasized the relations of cooperation between the two parties. Joaquim Chissano said cooperation between the two parties has become natural and that in the talks to be held the delegations are going to study ways to strengthening it politically and in other fields.

After hailing the holding of the first Frelimo national conference, (Troppen) said his party intends to intensify bilateral cooperation during the preparatory period for the fourth Frelimo congress.

The SED delegation arrived in our country last Saturday.

BRIEFS

GEORGIAN EDUCATION DELEGATION -- Mozambique and the Soviet Union have started talks in Maputo on education. The delegations are led by the Mozambique minister of education, Graca Machel, and her counterpart from the Education Ministry of the Georgian SSR, Otar Kinkladze. Addressing the opening session, Graca Machel spoke on the current situation in Mozambique particularly in education. On arrival yesterday, the Georgian education minister said among the subjects to be discussed is the sending of specialists to assist in the development of the national education system. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 20 Mar 82 LD/EA]

SOUTH AFRICA

ATTACK ENVISAGED FROM 'NEIGHBOR STATES'

LD231638 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] The possibility of a conventional attack against South Africa is the main reason for the country's new national service system which is to be tabled in Parliament. A statement on the contents of the new legislation has been made by the minister of defense, Gen Magnus Malan. Radio RSA's military correspondent, reporting from information given to him, says the attack against South Africa is envisaged from one or more of the country's neighbor states. He said the attack would be coupled with large-scale internal unrest and might include maritime action.

At present Russia was making use of a so-called threat which South Africa's military strength contained for her neighbors as an excuse to deliver considerable quantities of heavy weaponry to the neighbor states. Our correspondent said that since 1977 there had been an increase of more than 300 percent in the combined armies of the neighbor states; over the past 5 years this figure had shown a 200 percent increase. [sentence as heard] About 26 percent of the air power consisted of MiG-19 and 21 fighter aircraft. Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe also had advanced air defense system. He said the military buildup was being backed by an increase in military personnel from Russian, North Korea, Cuba and East Germany. There are more than 27,000 East Germans in southern Africa at present.